

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
 جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

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AMMAN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1992, JUMADA AL THANI 8, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia .50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## 11 delegations to attend next round of bilaterals

MERI (AP) — Foreigners of the Arab parties entered peace negotiations with the Palestinians Friday and decided to attend the next round of talks in Washington. The conference issued after a communiqué said Syrian, Jordanian and the Palestinian delegations would be in Washington Monday to participate in the eighth round of talks by the United States.

The conference was held at Al Bustan hotel in the pine woods of the mountain resort town of Beit Meri east of Beirut.

The Palestinians had argued that the talks should be postponed until after U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton is inaugurated. "It is a dead period between now and the inauguration of the U.S. president," said Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat. "No progress can be achieved in the peace talks before Clinton assumes power."

But the other Arab delegations said that a boycott would slow down the momentum of the peace process and they prevailed upon the Palestinians to take part in the next round even though it might prove futile, conference sources said.

Four headline factions of the PLO called on the Palestinian negotiating team to quit the peace process altogether.

The call came in a statement released in Beirut by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Struggle Front and the Palestine Liberation Front.

Groups from the four factions were allowed separately into Al Bustan premises during the talks, shouting such slogans as "Quit the treason talks" and "Israel understands only the language of the gun."

Faisal Hussein, the coordinator of the Palestinian negotiating team, and Dr. Erakat came out of the conference and engaged in heated arguments with the protesters, who eventually returned to Beirut.

The peace talks opened in Madrid Oct. 30, 1991. Arab negotiators say the seven rounds of bilateral talks held since then have made no progress towards settling the Middle East conflict.

## King: Arab summit could be held soon

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has said Moroccan King Hassan's drive for Arab reconciliation had received positive response and that an Arab summit could be held soon.

"I do not have details about the Moroccan king's initiative and its progress but I believe he is still working on this matter," the King said in an interview with the French news agency (AFP).

The King said that the opportunity could present itself in the future for Amman and Riyadh to remove "lingering negative elements" in their relations. But, he added, circumstances have not been forthcoming for such development.

Jordan's relations with Egypt, he said, were normal and brotherly. He said that he hoped the two countries would soon resume the process of rebuilding their strong ties.

In reply to a question about Jordan's views in the wake of French President Francois Mitterrand's recent visit to the region, the King said that France plays a major role in Europe and, with its historic ties with the Arabs, it could play a role in the peace process, "which should not remain monopolised by one party or more."

Jordan welcomes a French or European role in the peace process and hopes to maintain contacts with the European governments in general and with President Mitterrand in particular, "who showed keen interest in the developments of the region," he said.

The French president's visit offered a good chance for us to review the situation in the region the peace process, Jordanian-French relations and matters related to the mass destruction weapons in the region," the King said.

The King said he welcomed Mr. Mitterrand's proposal for a step-by-step plan to attain peace and the creation of a European Middle East development fund.

"Concerning the step-by-step approach I welcome the idea, provided that all topics discussed at various stages and in various packages are tied with the idea of a comprehensive peace," he said. "I welcome the idea of agreeing on topics on which agreement is possible and going step-by-step towards the more difficult points."

But, he said, the step-by-step approach is not acceptable if it means excluding the idea of a comprehensive peace or dealing with parts of the problem. "But I think the president's proposal was for the first option because we agreed on a comprehensive solution, with the Palestinian dimension at the forefront," he said.

On Jerusalem and the bilateral talks in the peace process the King said that it was premature to talk about a "full agenda" in the coming meetings.

He said that the common agenda on which Jordan and Israel have reached agreement requires certain clarifications.

This agenda still awaits approval by the governments of both sides after making certain amendments. The Israeli-Jordanian agreement on the agenda was tentative and subject to discussion by both governments," he said.

He said he could not predict anything at this stage, on the other tracks of the peace talks. "But during my meeting in Amman with the Arab foreign ministers we agreed that we have to trust one another and that each party should do all in its power to protect Arab rights and attain a peaceful and just and honourable peace acceptable to the future generations," he said.

## ish orders U.S.-led force Somalia after U.N. approval

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush Friday ordered a substantial American force of Marines and army soldiers to Somalia to protect relief workers, intended to feed a famine-stricken country of starving people.

The president said the U.S. must act. "We must give life to the people who are dying," he said. "We must give life to the people who are dying."

President Bush, who has only a few weeks in office, said a "dozen other countries" joined the U.N. authorised force. He did not list any, but Britain and Italy have announced limited participation and other countries could include Belgium, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Egypt.

Bush, sitting at his desk in the White House, said "Operation Restore Hope" was officially underway, although Pentagon officials said the first U.S. troops expected to land in the African country no earlier than Monday.

President-elect Bill Clinton endorsed such an operation, calling it a "historic and welcome step," after the United Nations Security Council approved it in a unanimous vote Thursday night (see excerpt of resolution on page 2).

"I commend President Bush for taking the lead in this important humanitarian effort," Mr. Clinton said in Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday night.

Both Democratic and Republican congressional leaders also declared strong support Friday for Mr. Bush's move after he briefed them at the White House just prior to the announcement.

The president said the troops would "create a secure environment" in Somalia, then withdraw and hand over responsibility to a smaller U.N. peacekeeping force.

"We will not stay one day longer than is necessary," Mr. Bush said.

"To the people of Somalia, I promise this: We do not plan to dictate political outcomes. We respect your sovereignty and independence," Mr. Bush said. But he also said, "there is no government in Somalia. Law and order have broken down. Anarchy prevails."

He said the force, which will be headed by Marine General Joseph Hoar, would consist of elements of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force of Camp Pendleton, California, and the army's 10th Mountain Division, a light infantry outfit based in Camp Drum, New York.

The president warned the warlords of Somalia, who have been struggling for power in the poor, drought-stricken country, to beware.

"The outlaw elements in Somalia must understand this is serious business. We will accomplish our mission," he said.

Mr. Bush, making what will likely be his last major decision of international importance, did not say how many American troops would be sent but members of Congress who met him before the speech said it would be in excess of 25,000.

Senior defence officials said Friday the United States is sending an aircraft carrier and two other warships to Somalia.

## omalia — deadly Arab failure

By P.V. Vivekanand  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

ONG THE FIRST to pull out of Somalia as civil war raged and the tragedy unfolded in the African country early last year were most of the Arab League members in Mogadishu. Since then, Arab assistance to the starving millions in Somalia has been dismal at best.

Despite low Arab expressions of sympathy for the war and condemnations of strife there, according to workers and political exiles, the continuing misery of the people represents the total failure of the Arab World to rise to the historic challenges of aiding help when and where needed.

"We have seen very few of the rich Arab friends of Siad Barre ever helped to look beyond what he wanted to tell them," said Mr. Barre. "For all practical and technical purposes, Siad Barre was a puppet and Somalia was Siad Barre's puppet."

It is, however, well known that the Jeddah-based World Muslim League is financed by the House of Saud and to a limited extent the Libyan government.

Both the league and the foundation, in cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society, run camps for the displaced in southern Mogadishu under arrangements with Mohammed Farrah Aided, the warlord who controls most of the shattered southern part of the Indian Ocean capital.

Arab lead in extending assistance to Somalia through the Khartoum-based Islamic Relief Agency (IARA).

The agency and the Somali Red Crescent Society channel whatever Sudan can donate and whatever other Arab and Muslim countries send to Somalia.

Jordan's Hashemite Charity Organisation recently contacted the IARA inquiring about possibilities of channeling aid from the Kingdom to Somalia, an IARA official said.

So far Jordan's relief assistance to Somalia has been limited to Somalia living in refugee camps in Yemen.

"There may be a Jordanian relief shipment coming to Somalia soon," said the IARA official.

Also present in Mogadishu are the Ibrahim Al Ibrahim Foundation and the World Muslim League — both based in Saudi Arabia and believed to handle Saudi and Islamic contributions to Somalia. Both work independently of the United Nations and other international relief agencies present in the country.

Officially the Ibrahim Al Ibrahim Foundation is said to be funded by a Saudi millionaire and philanthropist, but many experts believe that it also represents the Saudi ruling family.

It is, however, well known that the Jeddah-based World Muslim League is financed by the House of Saud and to a limited extent the Libyan government.

Both the league and the foundation, in cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society, run camps for the displaced in southern Mogadishu under arrangements with Mohammed Farrah Aided, the warlord who controls most of the shattered southern part of the Indian Ocean capital.

If they have any presence in the north, where interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed who beat Aided to self-assumed power after the ouster of Siad Barre in January last year, holds the reins, then it is hidden well away from the public eye.

However, less than 10,000 of the estimated two million starving Somalis are believed to benefit from the combined Arab and Muslim relief effort, international officials say.

"The Arabs have abandoned us," says Aided, a former army general and diplomat in the Siad Barre regime. "They have plenty of resources to help Somalia but they have chosen not to help us despite repeated appeals."

Grievances over Arab apathy towards their country is perhaps one of the points that both Aided and Ali Mahdi could agree on. By the same token, both of them reject any Arab mediation to resolve their differences.

"The Arabs have discredited themselves for any mediation in Somalia," says Aided. "They should have extended a helping hand when we needed it most, rather than waiting for the international community to take the lead."

However, that does not mean that the warlords, both of whom got out of their way to claim they have "wide political support" from the Arab regimes, reject Arab assistance.

"We have sent an appeal to the Arab League," said Ali Mahdi last week. "We hope to receive a positive response soon."

The interim president, reputedly one of the few Somali millionaires, however, is emphatic that the Arab League could have only a token

## Water and arms equally important as peace in Mideast — Sharif Zeid

VALLETTA (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Friday the absence of security and justice in the Middle East was not only reflected in the acquisition of territory by force or war or denying the Palestinian people their legitimate political and national rights or the acquisition by one party of nuclear weapons, but also in other vital issues such as water, one of the most dangerous problems facing the region.

In an address to the second international conference of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) read out on his behalf by Deputy Issa Madanat, Sharif Zeid called for dealing with these issues in accordance with the principles of right and justice as embodied in international laws and charters.

The prime minister said the Middle East still lacks security, stability and peace because of the injustice done to the Palestinian people, who were deprived of their land and national and political rights.

"The occupation of Palestine unleashed the Arab-Israeli conflict, leading to the eviction of large numbers of Palestinians from their homeland," he pointed out. Israel's seizure of more Arab territories in 1967 caused more suffering among the nations of the Middle East and led to more violence and confrontations, he noted.

Jordan seeks to restore the Palestinians' rights and to find a just durable and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict along the lines of international legitimacy as embodied in United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, he said.

Jordan is also taking part in the Middle East peace talks and has offered an umbrella to the Palestinian people to take part in the peace process, but the way is still long and arduous, he said, expressing hope that all obstacles and difficulties facing the peace talks would be surmounted.

Sharif Zeid pledged Jordan's continued support for the Palestinian people until they regain their land and acquire their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination on their national soil.

The prime minister pointed out that most of the countries of the world strive to remove weapons of mass destruction in view of the havoc and suffering they cause, and the Middle East was one of the regions where the need was the greatest for the removal of such weapons to enable its nations to live in security and prosperity.



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker peace and to achieve comprehensive development conducive to food security, social welfare and economic prosperity.

Sharif Zeid noted that Israel was the only country in the region which had nuclear arms in addition to other destructive unconventional weapons such as chemical and biological weapons.

The prime minister called for the total destruction of such weapons, noting that an arms control committee had emanated from the multilateral talks on the Middle East.

Participants of the Valletta conference will discuss issues such as the Middle East conflict, the Palestine question, the U.N. role in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, and cooperation among the countries of the Middle East, Europe and the Mediterranean countries.

## Jordan voices hope for settlement based on 242

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Adnan Abu Odeh said Friday the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict which is listed on the U.N. agenda as the Middle East problem remains unresolved despite the issuance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 more than 25 years ago.

In an address to the U.N. General Assembly's 47th session held to discuss the situation in the Middle East, Mr. Abu Odeh expressed hope that the Arab-Israeli peace talks would produce fruitful results and settle the conflict peacefully on the basis of Security Council resolutions, mainly Resolution 242.

"Two weeks ago marked the elapse of 25 years since the Security Council adopted its most famous resolution, known by its number, 242. And if this fact had any indication, it simply means that the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is listed on the U.N. agenda under the name the Middle East conflict... of which the Palestinian cause constitutes the core cause, remains unsettled," he said.

"We have always wished that this resolution will not mark its silver jubilee, and since it had, and I regret to say, it means that it was not implemented and that the Palestinians' land and the Golan Heights are still occupied, and that the Palestinian people are still living under occupation and are destined to pay the price of the failure to implement the resolution by blood, arrests, pain, expulsions and being backward economically, socially and culturally," he added.

Mr. Abu Odeh stressed that the Palestinian people were still deprived of practising their basic political rights, particularly the right to self-determination and sovereignty over their national land.

"Why should this people, after the elapse of half a century since the end of the era of colonialism, remain deprived of self-determination?" Mr. Abu Odeh asked, adding that "this people have fought against and resisted the Israeli occupation of their land on which they have lived for many centuries."

He said part of the Arabs and the Palestinian people have faith that the U.N. would resolve the Palestinian problem through peaceful means, and it is important that these people should not

## Co-sponsors see progress in review of multilateral talks

LONDON (R) — The United States and Russia said Friday a two-day session of Middle East talks on regional issues ended with consensus in some areas and a determination by all sides to find solutions to problems.

But U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian said the meeting of the international steering committee, set up in parallel with Arab-Israeli peace talks, failed to make progress on increased Palestinian participation or setting up new working groups on controversial issues such as Jerusalem.

"This session demonstrated a serious and positive tone and a willingness on the part of those who attended to work through difficult issues in a friendly and constructive manner," Mr. Djerejian told reporters in a joint U.S.-Russian statement.

"We are certain that with the resolve and goodwill shown by all the parties over the past two days we will be able to achieve the peace and security that peoples of this region so richly deserve," he added.

As well as Mr. Djerejian and Viktor Posuvaluk, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Near East and Africa Department, the steering committee consists of representatives from Jordan, the Palestinians, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Egypt, Canada, Japan and the European Community.

Mr. Djerejian said the steering committee reviewed the results of the most recent round of meetings by five working groups set up in Moscow last January. They cover arms control, refugees, economic cooperation, water resources and the environment.

He said the working groups were engaged in effective discussions and were addressing issues that would bring concrete benefits to the region and promote peace.

But "in some areas consensus was achieved. In some areas it was not," he said at the briefing in the Foreign Office. Britain acted as host for the two days of talks in Lancaster House, a government-owned central London mansion.

Mr. Djerejian said there was no agreement on Palestinian demands for a higher level of participation.

He also indicated there was no agreement on Palestinian demands for new working groups to be set up on Jerusalem and human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The co-sponsors also said they regretted the continued absence from the multilateral talks of Lebanon and Syria and said they would continue to press them to participate. Lebanon and Syria have called for progress in the bilateral peace negotiations before they will join the multilateral talks.

But Mr. Djerejian played down the negative side.

"The important point is that all parties are determined to make the process succeed, to find the most effective format to make it work and to see its purpose and value enhanced."

The co-sponsors also announced a third round of talks by the five working groups would take place in different venues next February and the steering committee would meet in late March or early April in Moscow to review their progress.

Mr. Djerejian and Mr. Posuvaluk also said all parties hoped a new round of peace talks between Israel and Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians due to open in Washington next week would make progress.

## Rejection of two party registration applications draws mixed reaction

By Mariam M. Shahin  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Outrage and welcome were among the feelings that political activists and supporters of democracy expressed this weekend after the Ministry of Interior turned down registration applications by two political groupings in the Kingdom.

The Jordanian Communist Party and the Baath Arab Socialist Party were refused official recognition on grounds that several of their aims and ideas in their respective charters were unconstitutional and in contradiction of the 1992 Political Parties Law.

The two groups played an underground but active role in the Jordanian political scene during the more than 30 years when political parties were banned in the Kingdom.

One of the reasons cited by Interior Minister Jasad Shoul for the rejection of the two groups' applications was paragraph A of article 6 of the Political Parties Law which states that "the name of the party must not be similar to that of any other party."

In letters sent to the groups, the Ministry of Interior said the theories of socialism and communism directly contradicted Article 11 of the Constitution.

Article 11 guarantees that "no property of any person may be expropriated except for the purposes of public utility and in consideration of a just compensation as may be prescribed by law."

Possibly the most controversial of the reasons given by the ministry for its refusal was that communism is un-Islamic and thus unconstitutional because according to article 2 of the Constitution the state religion is Islam.

Liberals, leftists and Islamists joined to question the spirit and legality of the ministry decision. Agreeing that while the final say would be that of the Higher Court of Justice, all concurred that the decision was contrary to democratic practices.

"There is no pluralism and no democracy if this decision sticks," said Baathist leader Ahmad Najdawi after being informed of the ministry's decision Thursday.

Yacoub Zayyadin, leader of Jordan's once underground Communist Party for the past three decades, echoed the complaint.

"There is nothing unconstitutional in our charter and although we are not Islamists as such we stress the party's adherence to Jordan's Arab and Islamic character," said the veteran political activist, who has spent eight years in jail because he was a communist when it was illegal in Jordan.

"If it was the name they objected to they could have told me and we could have compromised; this should not be an issue," Dr. Zayyadin said.

One of the architects of Jordan's democratic development, Minister for Prime Ministry Affairs Ibrahim Izzadin came out in strong support for the two parties during an interview with the Jordan Times Friday.

Mr. Izzadin, who was involved in the drawing up of the draft law on political parties, said "My personal view is that these parties that were denied registration Thursday are part and parcel of the democratic system and I don't believe they violate the stipulations of the Constitution."

"While the judiciary will have the final say in these matters the banning of any party which does not really violate the Constitution was not what we had in mind when we drew up the law," Mr. Izzadin said.

He said the rejection of the application was not a cabinet decision. "This is a coalition government and it was the decision of the Ministry of Interior. The rest of us were not consulted."

Prominent Islamist writer and commentator Ziad Abu Ghanieh agreed with Mr. Izzadin and blamed the Interior Ministry decision saying it was contrary to the spirit of political pluralism and democracy.

"While I am personally and ideologically opposed to both communism and socialism I believe a pluralist democratic society must allow for such parties to exist and judge their viability by the amount of public support they receive," Mr. Abu Ghanieh told the Jordan Times.

"The refusal to legalise the two parties will not mark their end on the Jordanian political scene, he said. "Such a move will only drive them under ground and move society away from dialogue and democracy."

Mr. Abu Ghanieh, known for his outspokenness and as one of the few public critics of political issues among the Islamists, believes the move will prove to be "contrary to the objectives of the democratic experience."

Using article 2 of the Constitution, which states that Islam is the state religion, as an "excuse to refuse the legalisation of these parties" is inconsistent with other Ministry of Interior directives, Mr. Abu Ghanieh said.

"There are hundreds of things going on in this country that are contrary to the teachings of Islam which are not banned. To use article 2 as an excuse to ban a party that propagates socialism and communism is inconsistent with other Ministry of Interior directives — to say the least," he said.

Mr. Abu Ghanieh said he hoped the government would allow the people of Jordan to decide the viability of a party rather than inconsistent interpretations of the Constitution and law.

Citing the ban on the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Mr. Abu Ghanieh said that "the most popular party in Egypt is banned; what does it change vis-a-vis the wishes of the people? Nothing."

"I therefore wish that the (Ministry of Interior) reconsiders its decision on this issue not because I support or believe in communism or socialism but because in a democratic system the people must decide if these ideas and parties viable," he said. "This is what democracy is all about."

But not all political activists agree with Mr. Izzadin and Mr. Abu Ghanieh.

"From what I understand the internal statute of these parties is in contradiction with Jordan's Constitution and National Charter," said Sami Gammo, a liberal political activist working with the Al Mustakbal Party to form a political union among centrist groups in the Kingdom.

"If we agree that the Constitution is our point of reference then

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# Home News

## Bataineh leaves for conference on nutrition in Rome

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in an international conference on nutrition in Rome by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO).

Minister Aref Bataineh, who left Amman for Rome on Thursday, is heading the Jordanian delegation to the conference, which, he said, would discuss means of involving governments and non-governmental organizations in the process of providing world food resources.

During the week long meeting, the minister said that topics to be discussed included improving the availability of food for families in the world, protecting the income of the consumer in matters of food and nutrition, and the quality of food and providing more care to less fortunate groups in socio-economic matters.

Dr. Bataineh said that the meetings will also focus attention on food related diseases, and means of promoting measures for safe and sound nutritional programmes and better and safer patterns of living styles. The meeting will discuss how to provide people in rural regions with basic services to curb emigration to cities.

According to the minister, the Jordanian delegation will submit a working paper on the general nutrition situation in Jordan, population growth, evacuees and refugee seeking settlement or refuge in Jordan in the wake of the Gulf war. Health programmes presently being implemented in the Kingdom and the general health conditions of women and children in the country will also be discussed.

## Officials hail outcome of Kabarti's Beirut visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian political circles have voiced satisfaction with the outcome of talks Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabarti recently held with Lebanese officials on Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Informal sources said that during his two-week visit to Beirut last month, Mr. Kabarti received "assurances and clarifications" on the Lebanese policy of rejecting the settlement of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The London-based Al Hayat newspaper Friday quoted Mr. Kabarti as saying that he received official Lebanese assurances that the policy of rejecting Palestinian settlement in Lebanon does in no way mean deporting foreign nationals living in Lebanon.

Mr. Kabarti, who held talks with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, Lebanese Premier Rafiq Hariri and Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Berri, added that the Lebanese policy towards Palestinians is only aimed at controlling the labour market and ensuring that residence conditions and provisions are observed and respected.

The policy also does not allow for Palestinians to obtain Lebanese nationality in order to preserve the Palestinian national identity, Mr. Kabarti told Al Hayat.

Mr. Kabarti, also held talks with his Lebanese counterpart Abdullah Al Amin on labour, economic and commercial issues with a view to enhancing relations in these fields and forging closer cooperation and coordination between Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

Upon his return to Amman late last week, Mr. Kabarti said a joint Jordanian-Lebanese company will be formed to look into labour and residence related issues. He added that the Lebanese prime minister has ordered the Jordanian embassy in Beirut, evacuated from refugees who moved into it during Lebanon's civil war and be handed over immediately to the Jordanian embassy staff.

The Jordanian Charge d'affaires in Beirut Atef Halasa, who was appointed two years ago, has been unable to take control of the embassy because it has been occupied.

## Construction boom to end, claim developers

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's building boom fueled by returns from Kuwait is expected to end next year with a 30 per cent drop in new construction, according to developers and contractors.

"The country's private construction boom after the Gulf war has reached its peak," said Husni Abu Gheida, head of Jordan's Engineer's Association which approves private construction permits.

He predicted that construction next year would decline by about 30 per cent from this year's record six million square metres which has changed the face of Amman with tens of thousands of new luxury homes.

"We used to get around 120 construction licences daily and it's halved now to about 50 to 60, Mr. Abu Gheida said.

In 1991, with a flood of citizens returning during the Gulf Crisis, builders put up 4.3 million square metres of private construction, more than double the annual average before Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Government figures show construction as the most important factor in record 11 per cent real growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 1992.

Mr. Abu Gheida said an estimated 70 per cent of construction since the end of the Gulf war last year was private home building, most of it in relatively affluent west Amman.

"The investment boom was directed towards expensive property units and it has resulted in an imbalance ... it didn't solve the problems of low-income people," property developer Mohammad Al-Kilani said last week.

Mr. Kilani said he was now concentrating on property aimed at the middle class with smaller flats priced at about JD 25,000 to JD 35,000 compared to about

JD 45,000 to JD 60,000 for up-market housing.

Real estate prices have risen an average 60 per cent in some affluent neighbourhoods while rents have risen by at least 40 per cent since the Gulf crisis, property developers said.

The boom was fueled by an estimated 300,000 expatriates who returned home with decades of savings from the Gulf and others hoping to cash in on the boom.

Banking estimates put total funds poured into the property market since April 1991 at about 1.2 billion Jordanian Dinars.

## Milk prices to rise

AMMAN (J.T.) — Government subsidy on basic commodities will drop from JD 48 million in 1992 to JD 45 million in the coming year which means an increase in certain food supplies, according to government sources.

The subsidy allocations which are provided for in the 1993 draft fiscal budget due in Parliament in the coming session have been cut from last year in accordance with a government plan introduced last year to gradually reduce government subsidies.

One of the basic commodities to be affected, sources in the Ministry of Supply noted, will be imported milk (halibona brand) which currently sells for JD 1 a kilo. From the beginning of January it will sell at JD 1.1 a kilo, the sources noted.

Government sources said the price increase was justified since the world market prices of milk have risen and because Jordan's 1992 milk consumption increased by three per cent over the previous year.

According to the sources, the government's subsidy for milk in 1993 will remain at JD 10 million, the same as that of last year despite the growth in population.

During the Gulf crisis in 1990, the government introduced the food coupons system by which only Jordanians can buy rice, sugar and milk at reduced prices. This aimed to regulate consumption, prevent hoarding of food supplies, and stop any attempts at smuggling foodstuffs abroad.

## 'Women's role in society should be enhanced'

By Masa Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "The Woman's Role in Jordanian Society" was the subject of a lecture held at the Royal Cultural Centre by Dr. Zeid Hamza on Wednesday. Dr. Hamza, the Secretary General of the Party of Progress and Justice and an ex-Minister of Health, stressed that woman's role in society should be enhanced by participating in the political parties and women should be more active in society.

Dr. Hamza said that things have been changing on a wide scale during the past five decades but still, social conditions especially regarding man's relation to woman, have not gained ground. There still exist the old discriminations against the perceived freedoms, he said.

These freedoms will become credible only when men begin to understand the individuality of women and their natural right of equality. This involves their right to work which will enable women to end their economic dependency on men.

Although women have been given access to political rights, such as voting and running for public office, they have not yet taken full advantage of these rights, Dr. Hamza argued. The Constitution was changed to involve both men and women as equal before the law. He said that the National Charter also states that Jordan abides by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and all international agreements in that regard. The Charter gives



Jordanian women: Exercising their right to vote

women constitutional rights to equality, education and work so that they may play an active role in society. On the other hand, some men still argue the women's rights should revolve around housekeeping duties only, the Doctor argued.

In the lecture, Dr. Hamza referred to historical records which state that women were worshipped as gods by native Mexicans while the Romans considered them as slaves. Islam gave women their rights but unfortunately it was not practiced as should be, he said.

"Woman's right to vote did not give her access to Parliament and recently in the elections, those who are most far from campaigning for women's rights in its new concept got the majority of the women's votes,"

The role of the Woman's Federation was discussed also but Dr. Hamza criticised it for declining to activate and reinforce the woman's role in society. He praised, however, its policy of staying away from "exaggeration and blind prejudice and ideological concepts and being committed to the reality of our society we live in."

"We should restructure the base of our society in a way that permits equal rights to women and men and we should start with the family itself which in its original meaning, refers to what a man owns in the form of slaves, women and animals. Schools and methods of teaching should be changed to eliminate all what hinders the woman from being an active member in the society gradually," concluded Dr. Hamza.

## Japan, a model for Jordan's education system?

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As reform plans through the educational system in Jordan, experts agree outstanding development by other countries in the world may serve as a useful model to Jordan. One such model is Japan, according to Dr. Hara, a prominent education professor.

Education played a key role in Japan's emergence as an industrial nation during the late 19th century," said Dr. Hara in a lecture on the Japanese educational system at University of Jordan on Wednesday. "In recent years, Japan is considered as a model factor in the renaissance of Japan and mainly as one of the world's technologically advanced countries," he said.

In his lecture, Dr. Hara who is author of "Changes in Education Postwar Japan" said that the Japanese educational system had been affected by World War II much had been done to get it on its feet again.

Only after the war show the for a decentralisation and in the educational system, a new educational law gave considerable attention to the importance of encouraging

Japanese students to respect their country and its cultural heritage, the doctor said. Religious studies, however, are excluded from the public sector.

"Education shall aim at the full development of personality, striving for the rearing of the people, sound in mind and body, who shall love truth and justice, esteem individual value, respect labour and have a deep sense of responsibility and be imbued with an independent spirit, as builders of a peaceful society," reads the Japanese Educational Law of 1947.

Equal access to education was also highlighted putting further emphasis on the right of women to education. The percentage of girls going to school in the pre-war era was 15% compared to 40% boys as well and women were barred from entrance to government higher schools and universities.

Major changes in the educational system were concentrated in overall transformation in the infrastructure of the Ministry of Education itself, continued Dr. Hara. "The power of the ministry of education was greatly weakened, losing direct control on national schools and faculties," he said. "A single track education system replaced the pre-war multi-track system; new subjects were introduced into the

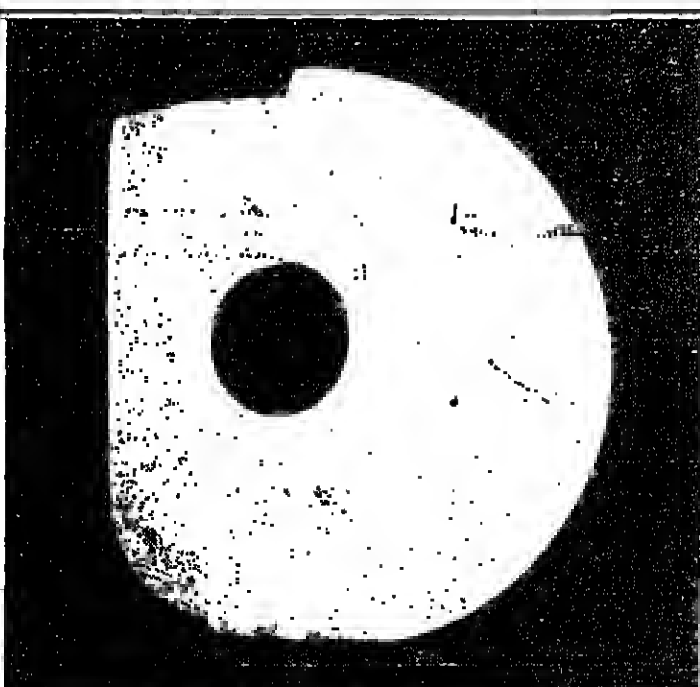
curriculum and more emphasis was given to creative skills such as music and art," he said.

A change in the mentality of the Japanese people towards education followed and was reflected by the percentage of enrolment of students which reached 100 per cent in primary education and 95 per cent in secondary schools reflecting the considerable attention and importance parents give to education in comparison with the case during the pre-war era, where parents preferred the participation of the child in contributing financial aid to the family instead of going to school.

Another improvement in the education system is the special

care given to the teacher. "Special attention concerning salary and position is given to the teacher," Dr. Hara stressed. "There can never be any improvement in the educational system without giving adequate training and encouragement to the teacher himself."

"Despite the fact that the Japanese educational system has undergone drastic changes and developments in all sections, there are still many deficiencies and many problems that exist," Dr. Hara said. "However, specialists in the field keep an eye on any measure possible to be adopted that would help the betterment of the educational system."



TIMELESS MARBLE: One of the pieces on display at Mousa Sa'ad's sculpture exhibition to be inaugurated Sunday by Mrs. Nawaz Sharif at Al Balqa's Art Gallery in Al Fuhels. The exhibition will be open to the public until Dec. 18, 1992.

## Prince Hassan leaves for the Netherlands and Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan today left for the Netherlands and Austria on a working visit to both countries. Prince Hassan will meet in Vienna the Austrian President and senior Austrian officials. The Crown Prince was off at the airport by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Tar, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain and a number of senior officials.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordanian officials

**Medals**  
AMMAN (Petra) — Sudanese General Omar Hassan Friday conferred on Abdullah Kanaan, deputy of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's and Abdul Salam Al-Jadi, secretary general of Hasbaniye Jordanian Organisation, Sudan's Order of the Republic in appreciation of role in coordinating Jordanian support to Sudan, over the last years, to help it overcome some of its social and economic problems.

### Triot to host

**Charitable bazaar**  
AMMAN (Petra) — Under patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped will hold a charitable bazaar at Hotel on 15 Dec. The bazaar, which will be held in conjunction with other charitable societies and a number of associations in Amman, will include handicrafts.

## WHAT'S ON

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Turki Abdul Amir at the Alia Art Gallery.

The third Al Amal bazaar at the International Jerusalem Hotel, open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

### OIC needs to demonstrate strength

THE EXTRAORDINARY meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Jeddah Wednesday came several months too late following the onslaught of Serbian forces against Muslim Bosnians and the commitment of untold number of atrocities and crimes against humanity. This overdue intervention on the level of the OIC belies the seriousness of the Islamic World to act effectively against Serbia's barbaric actions against their former fellow peoples, the Bosnians and Croats.

The Republic of Serbia and Montenegro would not have dared go to the extent that it did in its "ethnic cleansing" operations in former Yugoslavia had the OIC acted sooner and more effectively. Having waited this long to call for a United Nations military intervention, the Serbian forces must have interpreted this rhetorical stance of the Islamic countries in the same manner it has treated the international response, i.e., with disdain and contempt.

The OIC foreign ministers' call for lifting the ban on the import of military supplies by Bosnia appeared to be destined to the same fate in view of the West's immediate reaction ruling such a move out as completely contrary to the existing U.N. Security Council resolution imposing an embargo on all of the former Yugoslavia. Where were the Islamic representatives when that binding decision was adopted in the first place? Why wasn't there any real and serious Islamic effort to distinguish between Bosnia's quest for weapons to defend itself from Serbia's search for arms to commit its acts of aggression against Croatia and Bosnia?

The case for exempting countries trying to defend themselves from the embargo against former Yugoslavia could have been also persuasive and justifiable at the outset of the Serbian military actions against their neighbours. U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton is on record as favouring a distinction between Bosnia and Croatia on the one hand and Serbia on the other as far as applying a military embargo against former Yugoslavia is concerned. This fact can be used to strengthen the hands of those who would like to see Bosnia and Croatia get weapons to defend themselves.

In retrospect therefore, what the OIC has decided in Jeddah Thursday at the conclusion of its meeting cannot be expected to lend the beleaguered Bosnians and Croats an iota of meaningful assistance unless the Islamic World decided to respond forcefully against the West's refusal to honour the Islamic call for an international military intervention and the lifting of the ban on the import of military supplies by Bosnia and Croatia.

The United Nations General Assembly is fast approaching the end of its annual session and unless the 50-member OIC acts fast and uses its strength to pass a General Assembly resolution endorsing its own decisions, the entire exercise will simply go down the drain with nothing to show for it. The OIC must redeem itself on the subject of Bosnia before it can expect to redeem itself as a viable and effective Islamic body that demonstrates Islamic strength and unity.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily criticised Arab oil states whose regimes, it said, boast about their material wealth which they had no hand in earning, noting that these regimes are denying their people any kind of freedom. By contrast, it said, Jordan is rich with its culture, freedom, democracy and national unity though it might be poor in natural resources. What we cherish here is respect for the human being and we care for our democracy and freedom of which the people of many other Arab countries are deprived, said the daily. While other Arabs brag about their wealth, which does not benefit the majority, we in Jordan boast of the fact that we do not practise terrorism and dictatorship, which characterise the rule of many Arab regimes around us, it continued. While Jordan enjoys tranquility, fraternal affection and democratic rule and freedom, it noted, other Arab states lack the courage to open the door for any form of democracy. In many Arab societies, citizens, to be afraid of the regime, are denied free expression, cannot open their mouths to voice any protest and are not allowed to open their eyes to see the facts but are only allowed to obey orders in total blindness, said the daily. For this reason, the paper said, other regimes are unleashing media campaigns against Jordan.

A COLUMNIST in AL RA'I daily ridiculed the Islamic meeting in Jeddah which called for sending arms to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina expressing his view that the resolution will remain on paper only. Sultan Al Hattab said that the Islamic countries' foreign ministers who took the decision knew in advance that the United States and the western powers would not allow such development in Europe but had chosen to announce this decision as a hypocritical manifestation of support for the embattled people. He said the Muslim nations ought to have announced shipments of food and medicine to the Bosnians, rather than arms, and they ought to have looked to their Somali brothers who are dying of starvation and provide them with food too. Most of the countries attending the Jeddah meeting, the writer said, have to date failed to provide any food shipments to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and showed their support only by lip service through declaring their decision to send arms to them, knowing well that such a decision will by no means be implemented. The Muslim nations ought to have rallied to extend meaningful support to the Palestinian children and the people of Jerusalem who are facing Israeli occupation and atrocities and, if need be, send arms to these people to liberate the Islamic shrines, the writer added.

## Arabs and Americans towards the twenty-first century

Palestinian Professor Edward W. Said, prominent American-Palestinian scholar, recently delivered an address at the Arab American University Graduates Convention in Washington, D.C. Following is the full text of the address:

During the final week of the U.S. election campaign many Arabs, when they were not endorsing George Bush, subscribed to the view that any and all presidential candidates, Democratic, Republican, or independent, were equally bad when it came to the Middle East. This is an unsatisfactorily vague and despondent view.

The United States has just emerged from a twelve-year period of economic and above all social drift, in which so-called free market policies — a code word for Darwinian greed and untrammelled rapacity — have led to the decay of the infrastructure, massive unemployment, an appalling crisis in education and in health care, the ruination of the cities, and a disastrous ecological policy. In addition, first under Reagan and then Bush, the U.S. recreated itself yet again as an imperial power whose arrogant attitude towards the rest of the world culminated in Operation Desert Storm, a war that cost the Arab World a figure conservatively estimated at \$620 billion, and that resulted in the destruction of Iraq, a country of central historical and political importance to the Arab World as a whole.

True, the dreadful Saddam Hussein provided the U.S. and his reactionary Gulf neighbours with a perfect excuse to attack him after his brutally stupid and indefensibly criminal occupation of Kuwait. What was worse is how the U.S. has now been given a free hand in the Arab World, where it intervenes, stations troops at will, continues to violate the sovereignty of Iraq and impose untold suffering on its peoples, all in the name of freedom and democracy, altruism and morality.

In addition, the Republican presidencies of Reagan and Bush have produced a remarkable, not to say baffling turn of mind and opinion within the Arab World. During the past decade and a half it is true that with the end of the cold war, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the reunification of Germany and Europe and the reemergence of ethnic and nationalist rivalries all over the world, Arabs have suddenly found themselves facing a new political landscape.

Politically, the new landscape has been dominated paradoxically by the bankrupt economic power of the U.S. which, however, retains a massive, even frightening military and ideological capacity to work its way all over the world. At the same time, its own American people are worse off than they have ever been, in some cases worse off than many people in Israel who are now the beneficiaries of an unrestricted U.S. aid policy applied more generously abroad than at home. Nevertheless, because of the turn of events in Eastern Europe, because of the increasingly conservative economic and social policies of the U.S., because also of what was perceived as a new muscularity in U.S. foreign policy, almost the whole of the Arab World's ruling elite found itself seeking Washington, supplicating Washington, prostrating itself before Washington and its Republican president. Aid to Israel was increasing as never before, and all around the Arab World the crisis and tension of the North-South relationship, with its debilitating prostration of innumerable countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, intensified. This did not deter the Arab rulers and most of their American-trained advisors who seemed to find in the U.S.'s leadership positive qualities that were either obscure to or unperceived by most Americans.

Granted that, for example, Egypt approached bankruptcy and poverty on a horrendous scale and granted also that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia perceived in the U.S. a saviour who would rescue them from Iraq and Iran and granted even that Jordan, the PLO and Syria saw the United States as the only world power capable of hastening the process towards peace. These things are very different, however, from the general attitude which was to regard the U.S. as providing solutions to Arab problems, problems that properly fall within the sphere of responsibility of Arab governments. Nowhere was this more true than during the immediate aftermath of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. From that time on, one sensed that to all intents and purposes what the U.S. wanted, how the U.S. saw the future of the region, how the U.S. wished that things would be done, all these took precedence over the perspective on local affairs that is the prerogative, indeed the responsibility and duty

of local, regional authorities, those of the Arab states themselves. In time the wishes of the Bush administration became in effect not just the wishes of most Arab princes and presidents, but also the norm through which their policies were measured. I find this utterly preposterous, especially as we stand at the threshold of the twenty-first century. Why has a collective nigger mentality descended over everyone, so much so that during the last weeks of the campaign a most unseemly chorus of Arabs (even including several leading Palestinians) were quoted in the American press as favouring Bush over Clinton. How could it have been forgotten that it was Bush who not only carpet-bombed Iraq but also gave Israel the \$10-billion loan guarantee, plus a sizeable package of additional goodies? How could it be that a failed president domestically, such as Bush became increasingly during his solitary and undistinguished incumbency as a one-term president, could appear to so many knowing Arabs as their champion, when every evidence pointed the other way?

With a few exceptions, Arab state policies and attitudes towards the United States have gone beyond mere dependency and have attained an almost entirely prone position. I am not enough of an expert on these policies to be able to say why this has taken place, but what I do find particularly impressive is the collective amnesia about Arab history, and Arab actualities, that has occurred during the past decade or so. Here the resemblance between Reaganism and the new climate in the Arab World is very striking. Just as Reaganism effectively decreed the end of history and buried the ideas that government is supposed to care for the people, a generation of Arab leaders and intellectuals who were in effect the creatures of Arab nationalism, the 1967 defeat and the 1973 war, retreated from their own history into one or another variety of chauvinism, defensive xenophobia, and a kind of mendacity about the U.S. and its history of policies towards the Arabs as a people and culture that is breathtaking. We need to remind ourselves that no discernible American policy in the Middle East during this period did anything to advance the cause of democracy, human, women's and minority rights at all. On the contrary, American power and money went directly or indirectly to suppressing democracy and promoting war, or genocide (as was the case with the Iraqi and Turkish onslaught against the Kurdish people), and autocracy. What sort of sordid realpolitik is it for Arabs and Americans to be allied in such pursuits?

Or consider the equally pernicious question of censorship and the absence of any real freedom of expression in the Arab and Islamic World. Note first that neither any Arab government nor the American president has taken any serious position on the outrageous fatwa promulgated against Salman Rushdie by the Iranian government. I know that a lot of people are tired of the whole matter, but it seems to me to be an issue of the most pressing importance that a mood of such vast public apathy prevails even though a government can for over three years internationally advertise a reward of several million dollars for the killing of an author, and very few leaders, intellectuals, or authors in the Arab World and America take the matter up with their governments. Non-action here is the equivalent of tacit support for the Iranian government's gangsterism.

Or consider the state of the Arab press, especially the press published in Europe. It is difficult to think of exceptions to the rule that most if not all of it forbids honest criticism of rulers, governments and policies in the Arab World, especially those of the Gulf. Why? Because these potentates own the papers and stifle criticism. Between 1986 and 1990 I wrote a monthly column for a weekly Arabic magazine published in London. I had a very satisfying relationship with the paper and with its young, extremely capable Saudi editor. Most of what I wrote concentrated on the United States, whose society, culture and politics I was, I think, generally critical of, but not irresponsibly so. Indeed I was frequently congratulated and thanked by the editor for what I wrote. Then in August 1990, right after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, I was politely informed that no further criticism of America would be permitted in my columns. The relationship with America had changed. I was

told, and the magazine's owners were not about to jeopardise this new relationship for a loose cannon like me. I resigned, regretfully but very sadly since it still seems to me that our people can ill-afford a philosophy of fawning servility to the U.S. and to the ruler at critical times such as this. And, if I may add one more rather grim personal anecdote, the editor of another leading Saudi-owned Arabic paper in Europe has been telling me for at least the past three years that he would love to have me write for the paper but he fears what I would write might get the paper closed or banned.

There is thus a new hierarchy of power enshrining an anti-democratic mindset that has come into being during the past decade and a half of Republican leadership in the U.S. As it stands at present we have had a declared U.S. policy that regards the Arab World as its quasi-personal fiefdom, willing to go to war to protect what it perceives as its interests — mainly unrestricted access to cheap oil and a political status quo — in the region. The Arab World, and of course Israel, has fallen in line completely. Change is not permitted so long as it is not perceived to be in the U.S.'s interests: for its attempt to evolve into democracy and true independence one country, Jordan, has borne the brunt of an unpleasantly punitive U.S. policy. Arab elites now see their duty as essentially keeping the U.S. happy, buying unnecessary arms (as was the case recently with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who seem to perceive themselves as responsible for propping up the failing U.S. economy, whereas poorer Arab countries like Egypt and Sudan, which is in the throes of a catastrophic famine and civil war, are not high on the list of their spending priorities), and anticipating the U.S. politically in going along with its extremely peculiar vision of an Arab-Israeli peace process.

In the meantime, Israel continues its occupation of South Lebanon, the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights, attacking here, bombing there, imprison-

**"Change is not permitted so long as it is not perceived to be in the U.S.'s interest; for its attempt to evolve into democracy and true independence one country, Jordan, has borne the brunt of unpleasantly punitive U.S. policy. Arab elites now see their duty as essentially keeping the U.S. happy, buying unnecessary arms and anticipating the U.S. politically in going along with its extremely peculiar vision of an Arab-Israeli peace process."**

ing, maiming, beating everywhere, spreading misery and oppression at will. Who could imagine that about 200 million Arabs today are represented by people who have no collective position at all on these matters? That is a fact, however, and it is directly attributable to the annexation I spoke of earlier. But if we accept with sad resignation the attitudes of such states as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, how much angrier are we likely to be with the leaders of so-called nationalist Arab peoples and movements who go along with this kind of thinking. I have made no secret of the fact that I am in favour of face-to-face negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis. Neither has a military option against the other and despite the enmity and bitterness they share, one as oppressor, the other as oppressed, I have no doubt that they must somehow find a way to live together in peace and equality on the land of Palestine. Yet because of a disastrously ill-considered policy during the Gulf war, the Palestinian leadership accepted the idea, forced on it by its so-called friends in the Arab World, that it was obliged to take what it could as a loser, no matter what the U.S. and Israel proposed in concert with Egypt and Saudi Arabia. In a matter of weeks during the summer of 1991 we had given up our right to represent ourselves, given up our right to discuss final sovereignty over our own land, given up discussion of Israel's settlements, given up East Jerusalem, given up over half the population of Palestine who now live in exile, most of them as stateless people in refugee camps like those of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Would that these concessions were indeed opportunistic, because they were not. They harmed us and they radically misconstrued the fact that without Palestinian participation there could have been no peace process. I repeat: I am for negotiations, and I am for what has been called a two-state solution. But what I have been against is that short-sighted notion guiding policy that Palestinians must accept irrational and insulting Israeli and American

demands for concessions simply in order to get close to and please the right-wing Republican administration of George Bush and James Baker.

In the process not only did we forget our own history of struggle and the reality of our people's dispossession, but we also forgot the true extent of what this alleged friend of the Arabs, George Bush, has done to us. It was his administration that has continued to shower Israel with gifts and has enhanced what George Ball, in his splendid new book, has called a passionate attachment. Bush and Baker accepted the Shamir plan and foisted it on us. Bush and Baker gave Israel the \$10-billion loan guarantee. Bush and Baker have said virtually nothing in the past year on the abrogation of Palestinian human rights, on the bombing of South Lebanon, on the criminal behaviour of the Shin Beth, the Israeli army and the Mossad, to say nothing of the continued torture and horrible persecution of the people of Iraq.

Nor is this all. Somehow, the Palestinian leadership has got the idea that if it tries to cozy up with important figures in the Bush administration and relies on them, then the U.S. would line up closer with Palestine and less with Israel in the negotiations. This idea is pure Arabian Nights fantasy. Worse, it is yet another radical misreading of the nature of power in American society, a misreading which unless it is changed and made more accurate will lead us all further down the path to disaster. Even in Bush's America, power in America is complex and not simply the derivative of the ruler. Because relatively speaking Palestinians are weaker than the other sides in the negotiations we must more precisely, more exactly gauge our strengths and weaknesses within the domestic U.S., and make decisions accordingly.

As a decade of public opinion polls show, our strengths here are to be found in large segments of the academic and church communities, in the women's movements, in the African-American, Latin, and Asian-American communities, and all through what

became a great emblem throughout the post-colonial world, the sign of a majestic and principled effort to regain lands and rights and, yes, history lost to a movement that was backed by the West and which claimed greater rights to the land and to history than did the land's native Arab inhabitants.

How disheartening then, and how wrong not only meekly to accept the will of the Bush administration, but also to forget the truths of Arab history and the constituents of a collective Arab cultural and political identity. This laxness towards the Arab past, which is a complex and far from monolithic thing, is the very essence of colonialism. It was not an Arab conception of the Arab past that has been eclipsed, one that can never be compelled into the amiable but empty formulae of contemporary Arab statecraft, with its corruption, its mediocrity, and hypocrisy, its almost total lack of any principle at all except personal profit and mere survival.

There is a great impassioned passage in The Wretched of the Earth where Fanon described the way colonialism operates not only in the taking of land but also the robbing of history: "Colonialism," he says, "is not satisfied merely with holding a people in its grip and emptying the native's brain of all form and content. By a kind of perverted logic, it turns to the past of the oppressed people, and distorts, disfigures and destroys it." I think that it is a realisation of this truth, that colonialism distorts the past as well as the present, which fuelled the anger of so many of us at what went on during the June 3 meeting of the Jerusalem Foundation, when such tarnished and devalued luminaries as Henry Kissinger, Fouad Ajami, Martin Peretz, and Mort Zuckerman, did violence to the reality of our history and the dignity of our efforts at independence and liberation. But in this assault on the Arab actuality far too many Arabs played a role, complicity and complacency.

But, I think, we felt anger at the way we were reduced, after the fact, to a kind of enervated silence which reflected the inadequacy of means at our disposal to contest this new form of colonialism. But, as you all know, there was a challenge mounted by, among others, The American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), and some satisfying results were in fact obtained. The point I want to make, however, is that we do have means at our disposal that are not inconceivable, and now that the Bush era has finally ended it behooves us to look at the new political topography of the U.S. and consider what lies before us. Many of us who voted in the election were doubtless ambivalent; after all the Democratic Party has historically been very pro-Israeli, and, worse, influential members of its right-wing, like Henry Jackson, George Mitchell, Daniel Moynihan, or influential members of its putative left wing like Teddy Kennedy, Alan Cranston, and Mario Cuomo are fanatically, some would say hysterically, pro-Israeli. This is certainly true and it is disquieting. The winning Democratic ticket of Bill Clinton and Al Gore is a very flawed one, as far as the Middle East is concerned. Gore's views on Israel are an exact replica of those of The New Republic, a magazine that is little more than a U.S. house organ for the Likud, in all its virulent hate-mongering and racist fulmination. Clinton has said some pretty inflammatory things during the campaign but like all presidential campaigners a lot of what he said can be discounted as cynical pandering to immediate interests, and need not therefore become a long-term policy priority.

I do not want to minimise the uncertainties, the worrying possibilities of the new administration. These have been spoken about ad nauseam for at least three months, without, in my opinion, suggesting very much in the way of alternatives except hand-wringing and idiotic nostalgia for Baker and Bush. We should focus our discussion on the fact that whatever else he is, Clinton is different from Bush. He won the election principally because of widespread anger at Bush — that is certainly true — but it is also true that he articulated a more liberal, and in my opinion, more acceptable view of the U.S. than what we have had for the past twelve years. Clinton endorsed women's, gays, and minority rights; his views on the economy, within the very narrow parameters of U.S. economic discourse, are slightly progressive; and although his military and foreign policy views seem occasionally disarming, he is on record as favouring a policy on human rights not unlike Jimmy Carter's. Obviously Clinton is very far from being a socialist or someone in favour of Third World liberation, but the main

point I want to make, kind of change that victory could portend domestic outcomes that ity with some of the other words, Clinton promises at least a context and rhetoric that is friendly to Arabs generally, and as Palestinians, Lebanese, Iraqis, Syrian, North African, and who are in search of justice and an acceptable

There are of course able obstacles to even the least of which sphere dominated by is still in the grip of ing and racist clichés, Congress that remain the territory of the Israel Public Affairs (AIPAC), and the tical Action Committee, that support Israel board. But it is to acknowledge the difference another to a delicate wringing. This is where organ Arab American Graduates (AAGU), increasingly impon which is to regain the and cultural territory it during the early e spoke at a convention Evanston, organised friend Ibrahim Abu list of speakers and veritable who's who's the progressive and tradition of both th Europe, the Arab an Worlds, people il Mennon, Noam Chom Ahmad, Maxime Ro vis Maksoud. By seventies Camp Da Lebanese war took t the organisation, w reduced itself further years later it almost t. It is a tribute and a sign of resistance and in those members. Talhami, Hala Mak Jreissat, Jamal Nassar that the AAGU pre brought to us this e annual convention if

Most of us feel the our arena of activity Arab World, or ghts inism and fragmen current Arab World an-America that adv and uncertainty into tury. What we do in and what the AAGU effect to articulate both the American a future that is better now exists on the g means, our method, doing this is princip and intellectual: pr knowledge about the age, about the Arab man, about contem culture than what is it able. The AAGU me collectively and thro bers individually ple ventory role — win ing, organising, and advantage of the ve new opportunity affo Clinton's victory. I hin therefore that there a difference between th can complicity that bn invasion of Lebanon tion Desert Storm and tial — I underline potential — the pote new rhetorical climax by the Democrats."

But as with all thing, history, nothing is si for the taking; it has to be intelligently, digently. Our first ortness is to insert oursel national agenda. Last daughter, Najla tod Kennedy Cuomo came ton to speak about the struggle for human rig is Bobby Kennedy's daughter, and she has excellent job thro through of bringing at human rights abus the world. In 1991 award, of which she is architect, was given Sourani and Avigdor. So there is a lot to acknowledged and cen tween this youngest in the Kennedy legacy struggle for human rig was something of a t knowing members of ence that Kerry Kennec spoke about human rig Philippines, and Mal Kenya, South Africa America, Korea and y rights of Ethiopian Jew once mentioning her vious experience with Raji Sourani and the poor, oppressed Gaz place I have ever seen As Lillian Hellman rascal time is upon shouldn't be too surpr Ms. Cuomo's lapse bo part of a dishonorable amongst Left liberals i since the earliest year century. The British Libe

(Continued on page 2)

مكتبة الأصل



# Features

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Parliament is expected to move beyond rhetorics in next session

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

In the past week Jordanian dailies have given prominence to the Middle East question, the outcome of the President's visit to Jordan, and a host of domestic topics. The observation, this week, of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Arab League's declaration of solidarity with the Palestinian people should serve as an incentive for Arab countries and the world community to support the Palestinian cause which is the flame of the Arab world. The Arab League, said Taber Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, while we approach the end of the 20th century, we are not only the sufferings of the Palestinian people; we are never encouraged by the ongoing struggle in Palestine, said the writer.

On the occasion of International Solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Israeli leaders were urged by the French president, said the French president, during his visit to Israel recently, at the U.N. General Assembly and the Arab League, said the writer, an Arab Palestinian and that while the Jewish state came into being, the world was the advent of the Palestinian state, said Mohammad Kharrub. The columnist, who writes in Al Dustour daily, said that the president's statement reflected the world community's profound realization of the need for a settlement in accordance with the international legacy and U.N. resolutions.

Mahmoud Rimawi, another Al Dustour columnist described Mr. Mitterrand's statement in Israel as a psychological shock to the Israeli leadership. It was a clear message to Israel, said the writer, and a sign that Europe was making a determined effort to bring the region live in peace based on justice, said the writer.

On the outcome of Mr. Mitterrand's visit to Jordan, Sawt Al Nab said that the press conference given by King Hussein and French president revealed a convergence of views concerning the Middle East issue.

The paper said that the president expressed his country's deep admiration of the Arab world, thus reflecting the European attitude with the King and the president expressed the need for pursuing the peace process, but their statements only revealed Europe's role in making this process achieve success.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i reviewed France's relations with the Arab World over the past 20 years, adding that Paris has refused to give priority to the Arab world, though it was aligned behind the Arab States in the Gulf war.

The writer said that France did not veto any agreements within the European Community in Washington's favour and can end its hegemony over the Gulf oil. He said that Jordan, which welcomed the French president in the past, is awaiting practical steps by France to bolster Arab-Jordan relations in the true sense of the word.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Al Dustour said that France is shown that it respects Jordan's rights and supports the King's moderate attitude and its role to bolster democracy and liberal pluralism.

The writer said that Jordan is facing difficulties and challenges in

the drive to help the Palestinians achieve their rights in their homeland, on the economic level and other areas; and it looks towards France and Europe as a whole for support and assistance and awaits France's translation of solidarity with Jordan into practice.

Taber Al Udwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, praised the French president for his idea of creating a European-Middle East development fund noting that the Arab states have sustained huge losses in the Gulf war and were in need of support.

He said Jordan is awaiting practical steps in the course of French economic support for Jordan and serious French efforts to force Israel to comply with world community's resolutions and international legitimacy.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab focuses attention on Iran's subversive actions in Egypt and Algeria and other Arab countries.

The present Iranian regime, like the shah regime, is seeking regional hegemony and therefore it is using violent means to achieve that goal and implement this policy, said Najil Aloush.

The writer said that The Iranian government is pursuing all means at its disposal to achieve its goals in the Arab World and its policies conform with those being adopted by the United States in breaking up the Arab region.

Mahmoud Rimawi discussed on the same topic and said that the Iranian regime is increasingly involving itself in the internal affairs of Arab states. The columnist, who writes for Al Ra'i daily, said that Iran has been blamed for the unrest in Egypt and Algeria and is continually trying to bolster its ties with Sudan and Syria under the pretext of supporting Islamist groups. Furthermore, he said Iran is attacking the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and interfering in the affairs of the Arab World.

Turning to domestic affairs, a columnist in Al Dustour said that Jordanians hope that the new parliamentary session would not be transformed by deputies into an arena aimed at boosting their stand at the coming November elections.

Nabeel Al Sharif said that the current parliament session has a full agenda of important topics which require solutions and not rhetorics.

A columnist in Al Ra'i urged Parliament to discuss the landlords and tenants law in a bid to ensure more social justice and end the greediness of house owners.

Mohammad Subeili said that the landlords are increasingly demanding that the tenants evict their homes so that the house can be let for higher rent. He said the courts are full of cases that are examining this matter.

In the wake of the Gulf war and with the flood of people coming to Jordan, the landlords showed their greediness and are trying desperately to evict the tenants through the help of courts, the writer said. He said that such matters must be settled by Parliament which can introduce amendments to existing laws.

A columnist in Al Ra'i tackled the question of exclosures in Jordan, demanding that Jordan end

### Arabs and Americans towards the 21st century

(Continued from page 4)

ty and the Fabians did it, the American Democratic Party has always done it (except for Jimmy Carter, George Ball, George McGovern, and Jesse Jackson and the congressional Black caucus), the Socialist International does it, this rather deliberate exclusion of the Palestinian fight for democracy and liberation which remains nevertheless part of the great march towards human freedom, despite the rascals and cowards. The fact is that whether western liberals like it or not, Arabs and Palestinians who yearn for democracy and have sacrificed their lives for it are part of the same constituency that brought Bill Clinton to the presidency and that gave Robert Kennedy his status. And it is up to us as Arabs in America who must reject the legacy of Reaganism and Bushism to remind our compatriots and colleagues — in the words of Aimé Césaire — no race has a monopoly on beauty and intelligence and there is room for all at the rendez-vous of victory.

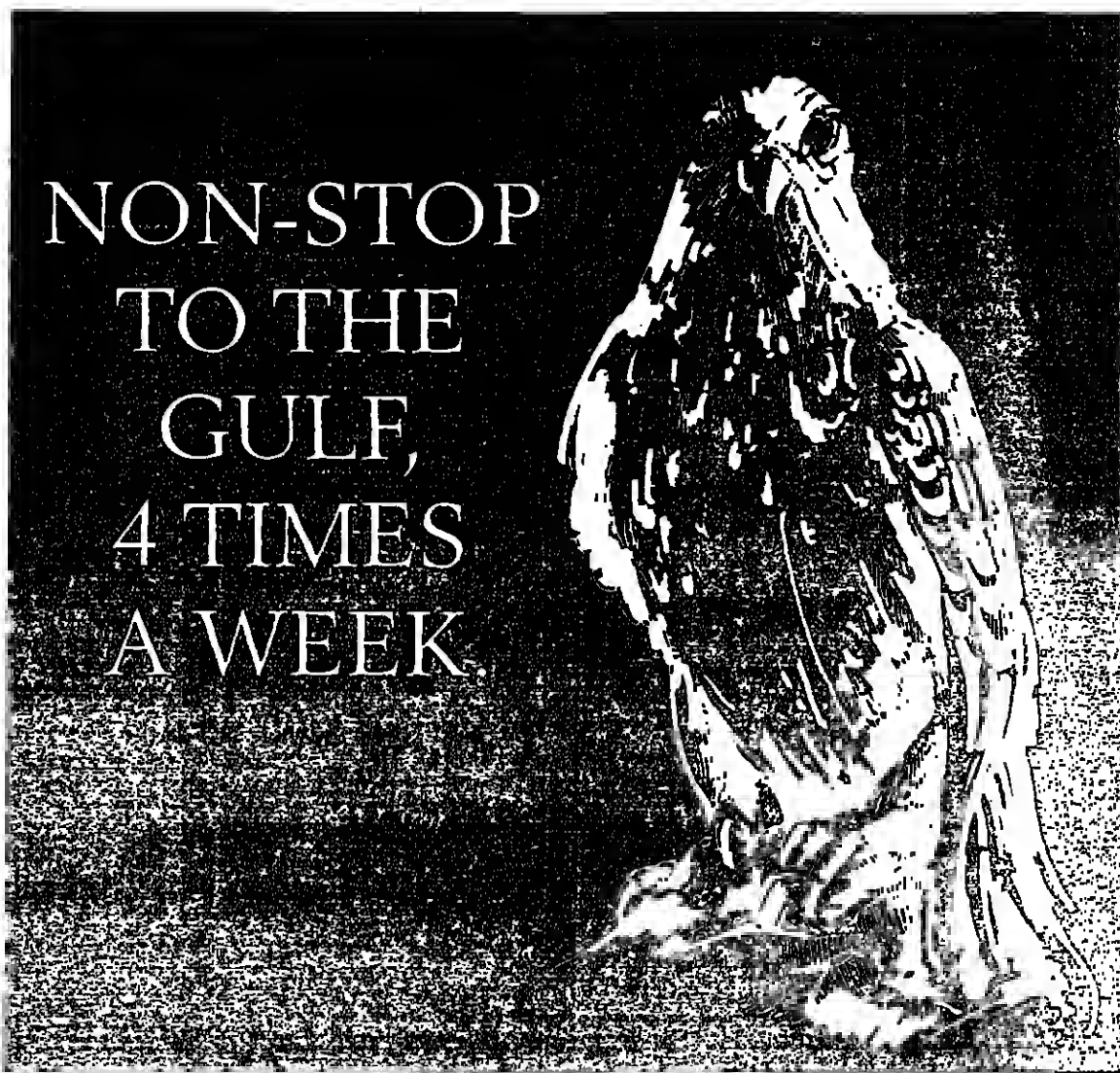
What it comes to in the end is a return to principles, something the AAUG has always stood for. What is at stake for us Americans and Arabs is nothing less than equality, and neither autonomy, nor interim self-government, nor any of the other things that are the coin of negotiations and local arrangements. We are for negotiations and dialogue, yes, but as between equals, not as between servants and masters. This of

course was the great lesson of the anti-apartheid movement, that it promised as the unchanging goal an outcome of equality between the races in South Africa. It is a testimonial to the leadership of the ANC and Mandela that the goal never changed although the

tactics did. Palestine is the test case for politics in the late twentieth century, and I am sure, well into the 21st. It is full of density and complexity, but for Palestinians and other Arabs it is really all about the struggle for equality, for the right to stand at the

rendez-vous of victory along with all the others. The particular here can come to stand for the general, for the general principle that no one can be denied the right to equality, neither Jew, nor Arab, nor woman, nor man. This is the message we need to work hard to

make current in the changed America that the new president-elect has promised. We must work, and write, and organise and give, indefatigably and, with a full knowledge of who our real friends are, I am sure that we can prevail.

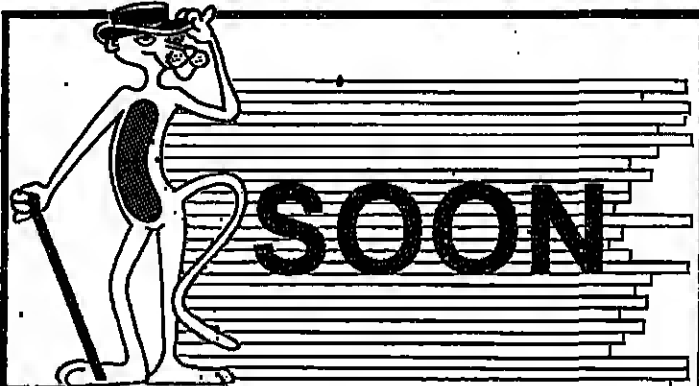


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cordially invites you to the opening of an exhibition of paintings by three artists from GAZA: FAYEZ AL HASANI, KAMEL AL MUGHANNI, LAILA SHAWAA. 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, 1992, at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery. The exhibition will continue through Dec. 24, 1992, open Saturday-Wednesday 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m., Thursday 10:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.

## JORDAN MARKET PLACE

### King

(Continued from page 1)

he King urged the Arab parties to state close coordination over the negotiations.

Asked whether he would meet with President-elect Bill Clinton, the King said he would be very happy to meet him but that Mr. Clinton was not seeking a meeting with any of the Arab states.

The King, however, noted that he would visit the United States this year to discuss the Arab situation and the course of the peace process, he said.

King Hussein reiterated Jordan's support for the Iraqi people, expressing hope that Iraq would regain stability and peace and be able to bring about national reconciliation. "The people are dear to us and they are our strategic depth," he said, "with which they would follow the line of democracy and political reform."

In relations with Iran, he said, Jordan seeks good ties with Tehran "these should be based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs." Jordan hopes to open dialogue with Iran to attain such a friendship, he said.

### Abu Odeh

(Continued from page 1)

lose hope of that, particularly at the present when tragic consequences are taking place as a result of the stumbling or the collapse of peace talks in several regions of the world.

Based on this and coupled with the sincere will to bring about a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Arab countries have responded to the U.S. and Russian peace initiative and participated in the Madrid conference, he said. Jordan has also participated in the meetings of all the committees which were formed by the conference whether in the bilateral or multilateral talks, he added.

"Jordan was even the only country which did not miss any meeting since the start of the peace process till now," he noted.

He called on Israel to make realistic moves for peace if its public declarations of a desire for peace are genuine.

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## IAAF ordered to pay \$27 million in damages

COLUMBUS, Ohio (R) — A U.S. federal judge ordered the IAAF to pay world 400 metres record holder Harry "Butch" Reynolds \$27.3 million in damages for hounding him from athletics after failing a dope test.

"I hope this proves my innocence," said Reynolds, who was out of the sport for a year after failing a dope test.

"I hope this will restore my name and reputation," the American added from Louisville, Kentucky, where he was attending The Athletic Congress (TAC) annual convention.

The court decision was based on facts.

The TAC is the U.S. arm of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), which was not represented after claiming the U.S. court had no jurisdiction over it.

The IAAF looked set to ignore the ruling. "Our position remains the same. We are advised the U.S. courts have no jurisdiction over the IAAF," a spokeswoman in London said.

U.S. lawyers vowed Friday to mount a relentless pursuit of the

IAAF to collect the \$27.3 million judgment awarded to Reynolds.

The lawyers threatened to target the IAAF's major sponsors and hound athletics' ruling body as far as the Atlanta Olympics until it complied with the U.S. federal court ruling in favour of the world 400 metres record holder.

Reynolds has been fighting the IAAF in court for most of 1992, initially to win permission to compete for a spot in the U.S. team at the Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

He failed to qualify for the team but sought \$4.5 million in lost income and \$35 million in punitive damages.

He had won the silver medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, setting the 400 metres world records of 43.29 seconds in Zurich, Switzerland, on August 17 of that year.

Reynolds, who said earlier this month that the IAAF had "made my life hell," said he planned to return to indoor competition in the next couple of months and hoped to compete in both the world indoor and outdoor championships.

"I think I'm definitely going to have a great indoor season," he said.

## Davis Cup competition Agassi to open and close finals for U.S.

FORT WORTH (R) — Andre Agassi will play the first and last matches for the United States in the Davis Cup finals against Switzerland and the Wimbledon champion warned his opponents Thursday that they have little chance of beating him.

"I don't think I've ever been as prepared as this. I'm ready to go," said Agassi, who brings an 18-4 Davis Cup record into the weekend tie.

At the official draw ceremony, which was held outside the Tarrant County convention centre arena in downtown Fort Worth and had a decidedly wild west flavour, Agassi was drawn to open the finals against Swiss number one Jakob Hlasek ranked 34th in the world.

Should the heavily favoured Americans stumble and fail to wrap up the tie before the final match, the cup to win or lose will be on Agassi's shoulders when he takes on 36th-ranked Olympic champion Marc Rosset Sunday.

The flamboyant Las Vegas native has excelled in Davis Cup and has come to relish the pressure and the idea of playing for his country.

"Davis Cup brings out a whole new level in me," said Agassi who is 6-0 in the international competition this year, including a victory in the fifth and deciding match against Czechoslovakia in the quarter-finals and a huge win over Stefan Edberg in the semis with Sweden.

"I have no doubt that for somebody to beat me this weekend they're going to have to play the best tennis of their life... and then hope to get a few breaks," said the confident ninth-ranked Agassi at the post-draw news conference.

World number one Jim Courier will play the second singles against Rosset and open Sunday's reverse singles against Hlasek.

On Saturday John McEnroe and third-ranked Pete Sampras will reprise their role as doubles partners against the French Open champion team of Hlasek and Rosset.



Andre Agassi

weekend and said, win or lose, they were just happy to be here.

"I never imagined to play this year or next year in the final of Davis Cup," said 22-year-old Olympic gold medalist Marc Rosset at a post-draw news conference.

Jakob Hlasek, who will play the opening singles match against Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi and team with Rosset for

Saturday's doubles, rejected the underdog label and said all the pressure was on the Americans.

"We had a lot of fun this year. As Marc said, we never thought we were going to be here. We never imagined it, so we have nothing to lose," Hlasek said.

"We're not going to be nervous, we're just going to try our best," he added.

## Are upsets in sight in the Italian League?

MILAN (AP) — It may be time for upsets in the Italian League.

With title favourites having struggled against second rate teams and a slate of powerhouses scheduled underdogs in Sunday's 12th round, the combination may be right.

Especially vulnerable may be AC Milan, who are at San Siro Stadium, Ancona-Internazionale and Torino Foggia.

Elsewhere in the Italian First Division Sunday, Genoa is at Brescia, Napoli at Cagliari, Juventus at Fiorentina, Lazio at Pescara, Parma at As Roma, and Atalanta travels to Genoa to play Sampdoria.

Clashes between title contenders in the previous rounds gave some clear indications — league leader AC Milan looks unbeatable in a bid for a second consecutive title, runner up Internazionale is emerging as the second

powerhouse this season despite a lackluster start; and Juventus and Torino are out of contention for the title for the time being.

That leaves the second-rate teams to possibly threaten the leaders and revive title hopes of their subdued rivals.

Milan takes on Udinese, 15th in the 10 team league, with the red and black coming off a 4-0 victory against gone-off in the third round of the European Champions Cup and a 1-0 victory at Juventus.

It has gone a league record 45 games without a loss, but the two draws in its 8-2-0 record this season have both come at home. It has won all five of its game on the road.

"I have been preaching all week not to lower the guard," Milan coach Fabio Capello said. "All matches and all opponents are equally tough."

Young defender Stefano Nava will replace suspended sweeper Franco Baresi while Marco Van Basten, with 12 in 10 league games, will combine in front with Jean Pierre Papin and possibly Dejan Savicevic.

Savicevic, one of the six foreign players signed by Milan this season, has not yet played a full league game. He may be start in place of Frank Rijkaard, who is nursing a light leg strain.

Udinese, which has lost all five of its away matches this season, will rely on Argentine Duo Adel Daldo and Nestor Sensini and on newly-hired Polish forward Marek Koszinski.

Ancona, a first-division newcomer which has its only two victories at home, has allowed a league worst 31 goals. However its forwards have been almost as good as Inter's celebrated stars scoring 19, one less than Inter.

Inter, which held Milan to a 1-1 draw and scored in injury time to down Brescia 2-1 in the two previous rounds, will start Mathias Sammer, Igor Sbalinov and Salvatore Schillaci, who has recovered from a pulled muscle.

Uruguayan forward Ruden Sosa will be sidelined with an injury. Fiorentina and Juventus, both beaten last week, clash at Florence's municipal stadium with the squads' fans bawling a tradition of a bitter rivalry.

Juventus will be without injured starters Roberto Baggio and Juba Cesar while Fiorentina is expected to bring its usual starting 11 including Gabriel Batistuta, Brian Laudrup, Francesco Balzano and Stefan Effenberg.

Baggio, Juventus' leading scorer, is nursing a cracked rib and is not expected back until January.

### SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Judges likely to let soccer coma man die

LONDON (R) — Appeal Court judges said they were likely to allow doctors to stop feeding a young man who has been in a coma since a 1989 football stadium disaster. Tony Bland, 21, has been fed through a tube since he was badly crushed and his brain starved of oxygen during the disaster at the Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, in which 95 people were squeezed or trampled to death during a crowd surge. He has been in a persistent vegetative state ever since and medical experts say he will never recover. Bland will die once feeding is stopped.

#### Italians lose unbeaten record in Eurobasketball

LONDON (R) — Italy's Scavolini Pesaro lost their 100 per cent record in the men's European Clubs' Basketball Championship semifinal series edged out 76-75 at Cibona Zagreb. The Croats took over at the head of Group A with Pesaro slipping to second. Real Madrid, easy 93-76 winners over Mechelen of Belgium are now the only unbeaten side, topping Group B with eight points from four games. They lead by a point from three clubs, including French champions Orthez who recorded a valuable 96-93 overtime win in Greece against Olympiakos.

#### Beirut to host World Cup qualifying tournament

ZURICH (R) — Beirut, the agonies of the Lebanese civil war now fading, is to host a five-nation preliminary qualifying tournament for the 1994 soccer World Cup. International Football Federation (FIFA) general secretary Sepp Blatter told reporters that a preliminary phase would be held for Asian Group D due to the huge distances involved. He said Beirut would be the venue for the group's opening ties from May 7 to 15, 1993.

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### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH  
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#### BAIT YOUR TRAP

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH  
♠ A Q 7  
♥ 8 6 5  
♦ K J 10  
♣ K 9 8 2

WEST  
♠ 10 6 4 2  
♥ 9 7 2  
♦ 8 5 3 2  
♣ 5 4

EAST  
♠ 9 8 5  
♥ A K Q 3  
♦ 9 7 4  
♣ Q 10 3

SOUTH  
♠ K J 3  
♥ J 10 4  
♦ A Q 6  
♣ A J 7 6

The bidding: South West North East  
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♣  
The Roman playwright Terence wrote that there is a demand for the man who can make wrong appear right. The scribe would have been proud to claim East as such a person.

With 13 points in support of partner's no-trump opening bid, North expected South to have little trouble at a contract of three no trump. However, duplication of values and excellent defense by East proved otherwise.

With a near yarrowbough, West led a low heart against three no trump in an effort to hit partner's suit, and scored a bull's-eye. It was obvious to East that West was broke and that, left in peace, declarer would fulfill the contract by picking up the queen of clubs.

In an effort to paint a false picture of the distribution, East developed a pretty plan to create the illusion West was the danger hand. East took the first trick with the queen of hearts, cashed the ace and king of the suit, and then, instead of banking the 13th heart to complete the defenders' book, shifted to a spade. South was now convinced it was West who held the remaining heart.

Declarer had eight fast tricks, and could develop the game-going trick just in clubs. Needing only one more trick from clubs, and wanting to keep West off lead, declarer spun the finesse in favor of an avoidance play. After winning the spade in hand, South led a low club and inserted the eight.

For a brief moment declarer mentally petted himself on the back when East won the ten. That quickly changed when East produced the last heart for a one-trick set.

### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY DECEMBER 5, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Found.

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A triple Moon square. Void of course finds you very restless with all kinds of ideas, some sound and some visionary, that require considerable analysis before putting them into effect.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Now you can plan that trip or expansion new set of circumstances that can make your fondest dreams come true with an awareness of your potential.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Think about the security you desire and then become better informed in all phases how best to attain it.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A straight shooting individual mass of the world is ready, willing and able to give you an insight in how to advance your public image as you desire.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A day to think in terms of the various activities that take up your time and to approach them from a better well rounded stance.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Consider well your finest talent now and the best means by which you can get it to work out to your overall advantage so push ahead with it.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Its a day to seriously consider just what you can do at your own

residence to have conditions more in tune with wishes willing to make changes.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Consider well those who want active participation your usual and routine and get their support for you to come.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Think big in a fine property sense now and you be able to make such a come true in less time usually necessary.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Your aims and your goals in the right now so do whatever you push and make them work your satisfaction.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 21) You now find a day to study all aspects of the future and goals that most vital to your fulfill basic need.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 22 to February 21) Join with all your friends and acquaintances just as gregarious as you many benefits can flow from meeting.

**PISCES:** (February 22 to March 21) One of those days to from all angles just where headed in career, credit conditions and implement this nature.

### THE BETTER HALF

By Harri



"We shed millions of skin cells every day. From now on, shed the grouchy ones and keep the happy ones!"

### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VINEA

NOONI

TYLLAF

INSLUM

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "OOO IN THE OOOO"

(Answer tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: AMITY SHACK LAWFUL DETAIN

Answer: What the best-dressed person should always wear — A SMILE

CHANGE

Yesterday's Puzzle Solver

1. 171 Abner cartoonist

2. Weaver's machine

3. Santa Claus

4. Cosmetic ingredient

5. Dennis Day song

6. Diet dishes

7. Laugh lightly

8. So-so grade

9. "Of the O'Urville"

10. Spruce

11. Pointed tools

12. Simpleton

13. "Stormy Weather"

14. Spoken

15. Elmer Fennema

16. Writer Anita

17. Crazy as a

18. "7-11"

19. Finish

20. Went by SST

21. Intoxicated

22. Portuguese

23. Play the horses

24. Very hard

25. Tail (horries)

26. Skate Smith

27. Singer Tammie

28. Male duck

29. Understand

30. Thin strip

31. Was in debt

32. Sensible

33. Down

34. Shade tree

35. Rogers and

36. Acute

37. Hawtins State

38. Jennings in

39. "The Blue Angel"

40. Skunk

41. Got up

42. "or up"

43. Appeared

44. Accountant's

45. Car pedal

46. Noncoms

47. Axe or chisel

48. Farber or Milly

49. Chummy

50. Turner or Lo

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100. Mowen



# Economy

**Financial Markets**  
in co-operation with  
**Cairo Amman Bank**

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date 2/12/92	TOKYO CLOSE Date 3/12/92
Sterling Pound	1.5525	1.5465
Deutsche Mark	1.5740	1.5835
Swiss Franc	1.3965	1.4068
French Franc	5.3655	5.3785 **
Japanese Yen	124.52	124.55
European Currency Unit	1.2415	1.2379 **

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	8.25	8.87	8.87	8.12
Sterling Pound	7.18	6.87	7.00	6.56
Deutsche Mark	9.00	0.06	8.68	8.00
Swiss Franc	6.43	6.51	6.12	5.81
French Franc	11.25	10.75	10.12	8.50
Japanese Yen	3.87	3.65	3.56	3.56
European Currency Unit	12.38	11.43	10.68	9.62

Currency	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	336.05	6.50	Silver	3.77	1.080

Bank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.688	0.690
Sterling Pound	1.0627	1.0580
Deutsche Mark	0.4338	0.4360
Swiss Franc	0.4889	0.4913
French Franc	0.1276	0.1282
Japanese Yen	0.5518	0.5546
Italian Lira	0.3858	0.3877
Spanish Peseta	0.1011	0.1016
Portuguese Escudo	0.0493	0.0495
Belgian Franc	0.02115	0.02126

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7990	1.8150
Japanese Lira	0.03528	0.03633
U.S. Dollar	0.1830	0.1840
U.S. Dollar	2.2850	2.3000
U.S. Dollar	0.1864	0.1874
U.S. Dollar	0.2000	0.2100
U.S. Dollar	1.7550	1.7690
U.S. Dollar	0.1864	0.1874
U.S. Dollar	0.3332	0.3465
U.S. Dollar	1.4516	1.4628

Currency	1.12.92	Close	2.12.92	Close
Share	166.98		166.75	
Banking Sector	120.53		120.24	
Finance Sector	183.42		182.96	
Industry Sector	228.27		226.88	
Services Sector	236.53		237.45	

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for gold world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

Currency	1.12.92	Close	2.12.92	Close
sterling	1.5795/805		U.S. dollars	
U.S. dollar	1.2725/30		Canadian dollar	
	1.5770/80		Deutsche marks	
	1.7720/70		Dutch guilders	
	1.4090/100		Swiss francs	
	32.44/47		Belgian francs	
	5.3675/725		French francs	
	1390/1393		Italian lire	
	124.46/51		Japanese yen	
	6.7570/670		Swedish crowns	
	6.4450/550		Norwegian crowns	
	6.1235/335		Danish crowns	
Price of gold	\$335.60/336.10			

## Lost exports to Iraq cost Britain more than Gulf war

LONDON (R) — Lost exports to Iraq, including controversial arms and defence sales, cost British taxpayers more than fighting the Gulf war to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait, according to a government report.

The National Audit Office said the state Export Credit Guarantee Department expected to pay out more than £850 million (\$1.30 billion) to British businesses who lost orders to Iraq and Kuwait when Britain went to war against Iraq.

Most of that would never be recovered, it said.

While not entering that dispute, the audit office makes clear that thanks to the generosity of

the Gulf allies, the British taxpayer will pay for the lost exports to Iraq than the cost of sending British forces to the Gulf.

Its report suggests the final cost to Britain of the military effort will, once stores are replenished, be £615 million (\$932 million). Though the cost of the war to Britain was £2.43 billion (\$3.68 billion), Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and others paid £2.05 billion (\$3.11 billion).

While generally satisfied that defence spending was kept under control in "Desert Storm," the audit office said Britain could learn from the American forces who had accountants close to the battlefield.

## Iran postpones currency reform

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, concerned about a politically risky price shock, has decided to slow down

currency reform that would amount to a steep devaluation of the rial.

Speaking on Iranian television, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said unification of the rial's three official exchange rates would not be incorporated in the budget for the next Iranian year starting March 21.

The head of the Majlis (Parliament) Planning and Budget Commission, Qorbanali Dorri Najafabadi, was quoted Monday as saying unification was now seen to be attainable in three years.

Eliminating the rial's three-rate system is a main goal of Mr. Rafsanjani's economic reforms but strong opposition was voiced in the Majlis and press after some officials said in October that the transition could be built into next year's budget.

"The result of numerous meetings of the cabinet, the Supreme Economic Council and Majlis was the decision to separate the path of exchange rate unification from reforms aimed at balancing the economy," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

"We do not want to give the economy a sudden shock. Our reform policy has been gradual from the beginning," he said.

Mr. Dorri Najafabadi, quoted by Resalat newspaper, told a meeting in a Tehran Mosque that unifying the exchange rate was a necessary long-term goal to stabilize the economy, improve the trade balance and create a sound pricing mechanism.

"But unification subjects the country to a huge shock which, if not coupled with correct planning and management, would have a host of political and social repercussions through increasing the pressure on people with low or fixed incomes," he said.

He said the main effort now was to rationalise the annual government budget. "If this is done properly, the twin policies of unifying the exchange rate and balancing the economy can be achieved in three years' time," he added.

Mr. Dorri Najafabadi said the coming year's budget would set 650 billion rials for subsidies to help low-income people and "basic food, medicine and defence expenditures" would be based on the official rate of 67.60 rials per dollar.

Mr. Rafsanjani said the government aimed only to eliminate "unnecessary subsidies" and would supply all the rials needed to prevent a price rise.

## Kuwaiti central bank approves merger of two banks

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's central bank has approved in principle a merger between two specialist banks in which the state has a large stake — Industrial Bank of Kuwait and Kuwait Real Estate Bank.

If it goes ahead, it will be the first success in a campaign to reduce the number of banks in the emirate.

The governor of the central bank, Sheikh Ali Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, said in a statement that the approval was based on a request from the two banks and on a study by their managements.

But sources close to Kuwait Real Estate Bank said the merger was purely the idea of the central bank, which last year repeatedly urged Kuwaiti banks to pool their resources.

"I am not aware of any request to the central bank...all there is to the statement of the governor," one source said.

"Merging is merely the wish of the central bank and is not for reasons connected with the position of the Real Estate Bank...which is better than good," said another source.

A central bank official declined to go beyond the governor's statement. Officials at both the other banks were not available to comment.

In the two-year period 1990-91 the Real Estate Bank, which began in 1973 essentially as a building society, made a net profit of 17.266 million dinars (\$60 million) before deducting extraordinary items costing 27.863 million (\$93 million).

Officials said the state's share in the bank was substantial but they could not give a figure.

The Industrial Bank, in which the state has a stake of over 43 per cent, made a net profit of 2.217 million dinars (\$7.4 million) in the same period, after extraordinary deductions.

The bank specialises in long-term loans for industrial and agricultural projects.

The joint assets of the two banks at the end of 1991 amounted to 731 million dinars (\$2.44 billion).

The central bank governor said last year that banks would have to merge for their own good. Government support was conditional on them merging, he added.

The central bank has supported the banks for years by providing cheap funds. This year it has also given them long-term bonds in exchange for their bad loans to customers.

Bankers say bank personnel are reluctant to merge because they fear job losses.

## Egypt, IMF extend reforms deadline until March

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and the IMF have agreed to extend the deadline of an economic reform programme by three months to give Cairo more time to meet public deficit and privatisation targets, Western economists have said.

The delay will give Egypt a chance to comply with International Monetary Fund (IMF) requirements for a stand-by facility which had been due last week.

Egypt must meet the targets to qualify for the first stage of a complex reform package carrying more than \$10 billion of debt forgiveness from Western donors.

Al Ahram newspaper reported Wednesday that Egyptian negotiators and IMF officials in Washington agreed Tuesday to extend a \$372 million stand-by facility, which was due to run out Nov. 28, until March 1.

The two sides have been negotiating since it became clear two months ago Egypt would not meet performance criteria set by the IMF.

IMF officials have been unhappy at delays in reforming the public sector, a key part of launching a full market economy in Egypt.

They said a budget deficit target had to be reviewed downwards because it factored in restructuring costs for reforms which had not been taken place.

Egypt could still fail to meet

the extended deadline which would risk derailing the reform process.

"It's just a bolder mechanism, frankly they need to do something quick...nothing's changed," one Western economist said.

Diplomats from Western donor countries said the IMF, not Egypt, had initiated the stand-by extension to avoid being forced into an unfavourable review.

Egyptian officials said the delay arose from a technical disagreement over how to calculate reform targets.

They also said performance was affected by the Oct. 12 earthquake in Cairo which killed hundreds of people and made thousands homeless.

"Always performance criteria are based regarding proper calculations...there are all sorts of technical issues and it is these which the delegation went to Washington to clarify," one senior official said.

Newspapers Wednesday reported price increases of up to 100 per cent in some cases on luxury brands of bread as part of gradual government subsidy cuts on basic foodstuffs.

Under a complex web of agreements Egypt signed last year with the IMF, the World Bank and Western donors, the first phase of reforms led by the stand-by will be succeeded by a second stage to last 18 months or longer.

## EC, U.S. sign farm trade deal

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) and the United States, formally stepping back from the brink of a trade war, signed two documents Friday dealing for the first time their crucial agreement on oilseeds and farm trade.

A U.S. diplomat said Washington was formally removing the threat of massive sanctions on EC food and drink exports which had been due to come into effect Saturday if no agreement was reached to unblock six years of worldwide GATT free-trade talks.

"What we do will be to make sure that the (sanctions package) does not go into effect," the diplomat said.

The United States had been set to impose duties of 200 per cent on \$300 million worth of EC exports — largely French wines — unless a row over European oilseeds and farm subsidies was settled in time.

The European Commission, the EC's executive which represents the 12-nation bloc in international trade negotiations, said it had been certain since the two

sides struck an outline deal last month that the sanctions would not come into effect.

"We've been working constantly under the assumption that the threat of a trade war was over," a Commission spokesman said.

The U.S. diplomat said that following two days of talks in Brussels between chief U.S. technical farm negotiator Joe O'Mara and his EC counterpart Guy Legras this week, two documents had been signed Friday morning.

The nature of the two papers — which were not released — was unclear, but they were likely to be described as memoranda of understanding or letters.

The two papers embody the political agreement reached by top EC and U.S. officials on Nov. 20 in the telephone negotiations after two days of face-to-face meetings in Washington.

France, the EC's top farm producer and exporter, has accused the Commission of giving up too much in the negotiations and criticises the deal as going beyond cuts in EC farm subsidies already agreed by the 12 states in May.

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# U.N. force grounds flights; fighting rages near Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers suspended all international relief and logistic flights over Bosnia for 48 hours after a plane carrying their commander was hit by gunfire.

The United Nations said no one was hurt and the plane taking Major General Philippe Morillon from Sarajevo landed safely in Zagreb Thursday after it was hit by six bullets shortly after take-off.

Heavy fighting raged in the Muslim suburb of Otes near Sarajevo Airport, and the city's crisis centre reported 41 killed and 118 wounded in the past 24 hours, the highest daily toll for weeks.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman in Geneva Ron Redmond confirmed that the suspension of aid flights would be extended until "assurances were given this gunfire will stop."

"Obviously these planes flying in are at an altitude that would indicate that they're not just being caught in crossfire — someone is aiming their weapons straight up in the air and shooting at them."

U.S. relief flights of Sarajevo were grounded Tuesday after a U.S. cargo plane was hit by small arms.

Meanwhile, in Belgrade, Serbia's Electoral Commission rejected a bid by moderate Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic to challenge headline Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Dec. 20 elections.

It said the Yugoslav-born American had failed to meet residency requirements and gave him 48 hours to appeal.

Opposition parties threatened to boycott the elections if the

decision was not revoked and accused the authorities of trying to rig the elections by tampering with voter lists.

Mr. Panic, who described the decision as insane and unconstitutional, said, "It is clear today that those who rule Serbia are afraid of free and honest elections."

"How is it possible that a prime minister of Yugoslavia does not fulfil requirements to run for Serbian president?"

His aides argued that he met the requirements because he had rented an apartment in Belgrade in his name for over a year.

Mr. Panic's challenge to Mr. Milosevic has been hailed at home and abroad as a chance to end conflict in the region, and its rejection met fierce criticism.

"This we see as part of a pattern of actions which could preclude the possibility that free and fair elections could be held," U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Heavy fighting in Bosnia and military gains by the Serbs, despite warnings and condemnation by the international community, have stepped up calls for use of force to end the conflict.

Outraged Muslim states have given the United Nations a 44-day deadline to find an effective solution, including the use of force or lifting of the arms embargo on former Yugoslavia to arm themselves.

But Gen. Morillon ruled this out. "Many people in Sarajevo still expect military intervention but it is impossible," he said.

My personal opinion is that the U.N. will not change its position on lifting the arms embargo," he told Reuters.

U.N. peacekeepers monitoring

the fierce fighting in Otes said they had unofficially counted 528 incoming artillery shells between 8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

By early afternoon the city's three main hospitals treated 47 wounded and received seven dead, mostly from Otes.

Soldiers from the Otes front-line reported a four-pronged Serb breakthrough Thursday morning after they took three strategically placed houses Wednesday which enabled them to fire directly onto Bosnian positions.

Bosnian radio and TV reported that Muslim military police arrested Colonel Jovan Divjak, a Serb member of the Bosnian mainly Muslim and Croat Supreme Army Command, in the central Bosnian town of Konjic on charges of smuggling ammunition and releasing Serbs from prison for money.

The United States has concluded Serbia is repeatedly violating a U.N. ban on flights over Bosnia-Herzegovina and is consulting allies on a possible move to authorise force to stop the flights, the New York Times reported Friday.

The newspaper, quoting senior U.S. officials, said Washington may be ready to introduce a resolution at the United Nations as soon as next week seeking to enforce the ban which was imposed by the United Nations in October.

In spite of the U.N. ban and warnings, Serb transport helicopters, gunships and warplanes have continued flying over Bosnia, which like Serbia was formerly part of Yugoslavia, officials told the paper.

But U.S. and European officials have been reluctant to take action because they do not want

to put allied peacekeepers already in Bosnia at risk in the war in the Balkans after the break up of Yugoslavia last year.

The report said Acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger is expected to raise the issue with foreign ministers at a conference on Bosnia in Geneva this month.

It also said the British government gave its strongest indication yet Thursday that it may lend its weight to some type of enforcement of the ban.

British Prime Minister John Major balked Thursday at a plea from Islamic nations to use military force to protect Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina if necessary.

"It's all too easy to be heroic with the lives of other people," Mr. Major said in the House of Commons.

"Those who talk about putting ground forces in should realise that we're not to do so...we would be committing those troops to a very long and very bloody fight with the absolute certainty of serious casualties."

"If we have not put in troops it is out of judgment of what is best, what is feasible and what is responsible."

Britain currently has 2,400 troops in Bosnia, its contribution to the U.N. peacekeeping force. Another 250 British soldiers are in neighbouring Croatia.

"It is the view of the British government that it is very unwise to get sucked into a civil war by deploying large number of ground soldiers," Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind told BBC Radio 4.

"There would be huge casualties for British and other forces. I do not believe that would be a sensible solution."



Residents watch thick black smoke over the north-western Spanish port town of La Coruna. The Greek oil tanker Aegean Sea broke in two and caught fire after running aground near the harbour in rough seas. (AFP photo).

## Fire out on greek tanker off Spain

LA CORUNA, Spain (R) — Fire aboard a Greek oil tanker Aegean Sea hit the rocks but suggested zero visibility and the effect of the electric storm on the ship's instruments could be factors.

Emergency services set up barriers across La Coruna Harbour and closed nearby coastal inlets to repel the slick which had stretched 30 kilometres wide and 2 kilometres long before night-fall.

But environmentalists said they had already spotted oil-drenched gulls and cormorants.

It was the third oil disaster in 16 years to hit the Galician coast, an area popular with tourists and rich in marine, animal, bird and plant life.

Pilar Lledo, the civil governor of the Galicia region, said police were holding the ship's Greek Captain Konstantinos Stavridis for questioning.

Deputy Prime Minister Narcis Serra called the accident "a catastrophe." He praised the efficiency of emergency services which rescued all 28 Filipino crew, including one woman. There were no serious injuries.

French maritime officials and the U.S. embassy offered their services and King Juan Carlos telephoned his support to regional President Manuel Fraga and Mayor Francisco Vazquez.

Schoolchildren in La Coruna were told to stay at home Friday to ease congestion in the town and aid salvage operations after homes.

300 people were evacuated from homes near the harbour.

Officials did not yet know why the Aegean Sea hit the rocks but suggested zero visibility and the effect of the electric storm on the ship's instruments could be factors.

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## Yeltsin loses key votes

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin lost two key votes in parliament Friday and then battled headline legislators over amendments to Russia's constitution that he said would weaken the executive branch.

The Congress of People's Deputies gave overwhelming preliminary approval to a resolution critical of Mr. Yeltsin's free market reforms, saying the work of the government headed by acting Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar was "unsatisfactory" and against the national interests.

On another lopsided vote, deputies also rebuffed Mr. Yeltsin by refusing to allow him to put Mr. Gaidar's name in nomination as prime minister. Instead, they changed the agenda and switched the debate to the constitutional amendments.

The amendments would give the Supreme Soviet — the smaller standing legislature elected by the congress — the power to approve the prime minister, deputy prime ministers and other key cabinet members. The president would have the power to nominate cabinet ministers.

On Tuesday, the first day of the congress, Mr. Yeltsin proposed keeping his power to appoint cabinet members below the rank of prime minister without legislative approval. He had said this was necessary for the duration of a "stabilisation" period of 12 to 18 months while political and economic reforms are implemented.

Mr. Yeltsin took the microphone Friday in the Grand Kremlin Palace to criticise the amendments being considered by the congress, saying they would harm Russia by "destabilising the situation, instead of putting it right."

"The adoption of these amendments will signify a turnabout of 180 degrees... If the amendments are adopted, the country will get a weak government — whoever will be in it and whoever will head it," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"Let us not deceive ourselves: If the amendments are adopted, then the Supreme Soviet, according to the constitution, will become the only representative of power of Russia, with all the due consequences," he said.

"You'll tie up the government, hand and foot," Mr. Yeltsin told the deputies.

Among the amendments is a measure that makes the cabinet accountable to the congress and the Supreme Soviet, as well as the president, further diluting executive power.

Another gives the Supreme Soviet authority to overrule the president on the creation, reorganisation or scrapping of government ministries and departments.

"The adoption of these amendments will amount to a constitutional coup," Economics Minister Andrei Nekhayev told reporters.

To amend the constitution, the hardliners need two thirds, 694, of the 1,041-member congress. Voting by secret ballot will be held Saturday.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

**Reagan warns West over Bosnia**

OXFORD, England (R) — Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan called Friday for NATO intervention in Bosnia, saying "evil still stalks the planet." In a speech to the Oxford University Debating Club, Mr. Reagan said the Serbs should be given an ultimatum to stop shelling civilians or face bombing of their own military targets. As U.S. forces prepared to enforce the distribution of relief aid in Somalia, Mr. Reagan said it was "morally imperative" for the United Nations to intervene. The man who once branded the Soviet Union an "evil empire" told his student audience the end of the cold war meant a single threat had been replaced by a host of smaller but no less deadly flashpoints.

**IRA switches tactics, bombs Manchester**

LONDON (R) — The IRA, switching its campaign from London, bombed Manchester injuring 65 people and Britain's chief police officer warned that provincial towns were now at risk in the runup to Christmas. Two bombs exploded in the busy streets of the northern English city Thursday. Six people were injured when one device went off without prior warning outside a government building in the main shopping district and many more were hurt in another blast near the cathedral. The Irish Republican Army (IRA) has not claimed responsibility but a man telephoned a Samaritans counselling helpline minutes after the first blast saying he was from the IRA and four bombs were due to go off in Manchester. "It is an IRA tactic to concentrate on one area and then move swiftly to another," said Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert. "Provincial towns are at risk."

**Bank manager seized in bomb-hit Corsica**

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — A commando kidnapped a bank manager on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica Friday following a night of bombings, police said. Suspected Corsican nationalists planted 24 small bombs on the island and two more in mainland France. The explosions caused some damage but no casualties. Padoue Coulle-Ortol, director of the state-owned Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) in Bastia, was abducted from his home and taken to an unknown destination, a police spokesman said. No-one has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the banker who had been held prisoner with his family throughout the night, the spokesman said. The 26 devices which went off Thursday night included one in Paris and another in the French Riviera resort of Nice. They exploded at around the same time, damaging buildings. No-one claimed responsibility for the attacks which the police said bore the hallmarks of the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC).

**Hurd attacks China over Hong Kong**

LONDON (R) — Britain said it fully supported Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's democracy proposals and told China it had no right to dictate policies in the colony in areas outside Peking's responsibility. But Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd softened his message with another plea to China to cooperate with Britain over Mr. Patten's plans for greater democracy in the British colony before it is handed back to Chinese rule in 1997. "It is a good thing if China and Britain, during the period up to 1997, can work together and we would like to do so on this occasion too," Mr. Hurd told British Broadcasting Corporation radio.

"But that is not the same as saying the Chinese have the right to tell us... what we can or cannot do in areas that are our responsibility," he said. Mr. Hurd's warning to China followed the latest in a series of threats from Peking over Mr. Patten's democracy plans which provoked the biggest one-day dive on the Hong Kong stock market since Peking crushed its own pro-democracy movement in 1989.

**Shuttle crew releases spy satellite**

SPACE CENTRE, Houston (AP) — Discovery's crew of five astronauts released a secret military satellite and began testing a new camera system during the public portion of their seven-day mission. The camera, known as Hercules, is designed to pinpoint the latitude and longitude of earth targets within about 2.3 miles (3.7 kilometres). Before taking a picture of a target with the camera, astronauts aim it at two established stars so the system can determine the image's bearing in space. More than 140 targets worldwide, including cities, islands, mountains and volcanoes, have been selected to help test the system during its first shuttle flight. Astronaut James Voss said the crew snapped shots of a runway on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas Thursday morning, after finding that a couple of other targets were covered with clouds.

## 19 whites injured in S. Africa bombing

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Nineteen whites were injured by a bomb explosion in a crowded restaurant. Police said Friday they believe the attack was politically motivated, the second in a week.

The recent attacks against whites — a rare occurrence — come as President F.W. de Klerk's white government and the African National Congress (ANC) attempt to revive multi-party negotiations on ending apartheid.

The bombing Thursday, just before midnight, was in Queensstown, about 100 kilometres from King William's Town, where four elderly whites were killed Saturday in a gun and hand grenade attack by blacks at a country club Christmas party.

The Azanian People's Liberation Army, armed wing of a radical black nationalist group, the Pan-Africanist Congress, claimed responsibility for the country club attack and said it would step up a campaign against white targets.

## Khmer Rouge frees 6 U.N. troops

KOMPONG THOM, Cambodia (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas Friday released six U.N. peacekeepers held hostage since Tuesday in central Cambodia, ending the most serious challenge to the U.N. force since it arrived in March.

The six — three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander — were freed at 10:40 a.m. and arrived in the provincial capital of Kompong Thom after a two-hour boat trip from the remote village where they had been held.

Asked how he felt, British Naval Lieutenant Peter Verney replied: "Much better now."

The incident was the most serious challenge to the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) since its 22,000-strong force began deploying in March to monitor an accord to end 12 years of civil war.

The six were seized the day

after the U.N. Security Council declared trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge for its refusal to disarm under the terms of the 1991 pact.

Sipping a cold beer in Kompong Thom, New Zealand Navy Petty Officer John Oxenham, said: "I have been waiting for this for four days."

"It's been an very interesting experience. The only thing I've missed apart from my wife is an ice cold beer."

British Lieutenant-Colonel Mark Walton said they had been unable to sleep properly at night because of mosquitoes and fleas as their captors had not given them nets to sleep under.

The men said they could not make any other comment until they had been debriefed by military officers. However, Col. Walton praised the effort of Australian peacekeepers in securing

their release.

"If special thanks is due to anyone it would be to them," he said.

Australia is responsible for military communications in Cambodia and the six were able to maintain almost constant radio contact with their headquarters during their captivity.

The six, including British army Captain Jamie William and Filipino Navy Chief Petty Officers Jose Almirante and Blandino. Mones, appeared pale and tired but otherwise healthy. They were still smartly dressed in camouflage fatigues.

They were taken to a field hospital run by Indonesian peacekeepers for medical checks before being flown to Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital and UNTAC's headquarters.

## Windsor Castle fire caused by spotlight

LONDON (R) — A fire that caused extensive damage at Queen Elizabeth's Windsor Castle last month was started by a spotlight placed too close to a curtain, an official report issued Friday said.

The report by the local Berkshire Fire Service said no indi-

vidual was to blame for the fire, which caused an estimated £60 million (\$95 million) worth of damage.

The fire started on the first floor of the castle's private chapel, where the queen and her family often prayed, and spread through six rooms, destroying

valuable paintings and artefacts.

The report, issued by Buckingham Palace, was compiled by a five-man team of police, forensic experts and fire officers, who spent eight days investigating the fire and carried out more than 100 interviews.

## Paris, Bonn avoid controversy before EC summit

BONN (R) — Germany and France have avoided potentially damaging controversies during top level talks before next week's European Community (EC) summit.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Francois Mitterrand agreed in talks Thursday to keep the issue of world trade reform, on which France has taken an isolated stand, off the agenda for the Dec. 11-12 Edinburgh meeting.

Instead, the two leaders declared that the expansion of the 12-nation European Community should be a key topic in Edinburgh.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Mitterrand, meeting in Bonn for their regular consultations before the EC's six-monthly summits, want the talks on admitting new EC members finished by the end of 1993, German government spokesman Dieter Vogel said.

Mr. Vogel, referring in a statement to membership applications from Austria, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland, said the expansion talks should start in early 1993.

"Both governments think these expansion negotiations should be finished by the end of 1993," said Mr. Vogel.

Germany has been keen to expand the community as quickly as possible whereas Britain, which holds the rotating EC presidency, has been criticised for not doing enough to prepare for formal negotiations on the issue.

Britain has said further progress was limited until the Maastricht Treaty on European union

had been ratified by all member states and future Community finances were settled.

But Mr. Mitterrand's spokesman Jean Mustelli, who declined to give details of the enlargement deal, said there was now more flexibility about starting talks even before all 12 EC members ratify the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr. Mustelli said the two leaders also believed British proposals for solving the problem caused by Denmark's rejection of the treaty might satisfy the demands presented by the Danish government.

But diplomats in Copenhagen said the proposals may not win over voters in a second referendum next year. Danish voters rejected the treaty in a referendum in June.

Mr. Kohl and Mr. Mitterrand also came closer to an agreement on Bonn's demand for 18 extra seats in the European Parliament for its new deputies from formerly communist east Germany.

Mr. Kohl said Wednesday he expected the Edinburgh summit to decide this issue, which has concerned France because it would upset the traditional parity among the EC's four largest states — Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

Off the agenda came the controversial GATT world trade reform, in which France took an isolated headline stance against an oilseeds deal worked out between Washington and Brussels.

"It's not the central issue," Mr. Mustelli told journalists. "One should not confuse an EC summit

with GATT negotiations."

Mr. Mustelli said that the most complex issue facing the EC summit would be the future financing of the EC, but gave no details.

Meanwhile, EC president Brittan wants dozens of key European Community laws and proposals scrapped, including plans for a maximum 48-hour work week and common alcohol limits for drivers, according to a draft paper obtained by Reuters.

The list includes more than 30 pieces of EC legislation or proposals which it wants abolished or amended, mainly in the labour and social domains, but ranging from company takeovers to the standard of zoos or road speed limits.

EC sources said Friday the highly controversial paper had been compiled by British officials in preparation for the key Edinburgh summit next Friday and Saturday where EC leaders plan to define the balance of power between Brussels and EC capitals.

First indications of the paper's existence came Thursday when Ken Collins, a Socialist member of the European Parliament, charged that Britain wanted to use the Edinburgh debate on subsidiarity — EC jargon for the principle of making decisions at the lowest possible level — to scupper environment rules.

Grilled by Mr. Collins at the parliament's environment committee Thursday about an idea which could cause consternation in the Community, British Environment Secretary Michael Howard said: "I'm sure you

wouldn't expect me to respond."

He said he could not speak on a document which Mr. Collins had decided not to identify when he confronted Mr. Howard with it.

EC sources Friday said the paper was about a week old but said they believed it had not yet been presented to the other EC member states.

The document, which cites a range of British government departments opposing each of the EC laws or proposals and reasons why they should go, risks inflaming relations before the key Edinburgh summit next weekend.

Scared by Danish rejection of the Maastricht Treaty and set on restoring public confidence in the Community, the Brussels EC Commission and member states are searching for a deal, to be sealed in Edinburgh, on subsidiarity.

The commission, which proposes EC legislation, is also due to draw up a list of its own for Edinburgh but it is likely to be far less ambitious than the British one.

According to the British paper, the British Department of Employment wants to do away with a proposal to set up works councils across the EC to improve consultation with workers in companies.

They also want to kill off future laws on part-time work, protection of young children in employment and another proposal that would limit working weeks to a maximum of 48 hours, which Britain has resisted with great determination to date, the paper says.

## COLUMB

### A policeman's lottery is not a happy or

PEKING (R) — Police in China's Hunan province vote to choose the province's cops of the year, the Daily said. To ensure the dates won, Hunan in finest ripped out half thousands of copies of the Hunan "The scandal has rocked lie in Qiyang, Chongqing and Jiangyong counties province," the newspaper. The scam came to light some officers admitted to the ballots to ensure men would win. It was a tioned what prizes were.

### Haircut victim a fire to salons

LOS ANGELES (R) — year-old man was sent spend a year in a prison unit after he pleaded test to setting fire to his where he thought he had bad haircuts. Jacob pleaded no contest counts of arson and vandalism in a pre-agreement. The judge said Mr. Mandel on five year tion. Mr. Mandel was a by an obsession about his received at three salons suburban Van Nuys in Los Angeles, prosecutor Mr. Mandel was arrested after one of the salons w fire three times in one.

### Human organ k on Australian b

SYDNEY (R) — A found by a woman wai a beach in southeastern has been identified by tests as a human peni. The dark object in October washed up on gui Beach, 350 kilom of Sydney, and handed for testing. The result been released. The p number of body pa Australia in the past Police in Sydney have lected a right and a leg arm and a male torso, all same body. The peni another body. Last we of feet still in running s found on a beach in S stralia.

### Police arrest 21 kidnapping girl

TOKYO (R) — Japan freed an abducted 19 college girl and arrest debt-ridden reators who manded a 200 million ye million) ransom, a sp said. Sachiyo Fujita came ary but unburt after her ordeal, he said. A basic judgement by the kid seems to have given a videot at Teiri in Japan. The spokesman pair's eighth ransom call on too long, enabling t trace the telephone. Fj been abducted at a rail tion near her home b enforced a media blacko her release. Television the weary girl being tak by policemen, after t checks she was allowe back to her family. Police arrested pair, real estate Yasuhiro Haba, 27, and ko Sakashita, 20, knew t father and needed mon pay their debts.

### Man retrieves ca wife threw out with the trash

HEEMSTED, Nethe (AP) — After two days through a mountain of man whose wife th guilders (\$30,000) out trash has gotten most of Dutch newspaper reports turning late from work M the man — identified on a holding the day's reapi kitchen garbage contain cause "it's not a place burglars think of lool according to an article Telegraaf newspaper. U the trash bid so much c wife set it outside the fr next day for the garba tors. Alerted by a franc morning phone call, the al garbage service identifi right truck and brought t depot. There, the des businessman, his wife and employees spent the e hours combing through a compacted rubbish from own houses until he'd s together most of the missi An official at Heemstede Disposal Department firmed the episode had o but said the burga businessman had "asked u insistently" not to co further. "I think he's a bit rassed," the official said.